

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 394 (Delegate Bohanan)
Environmental Matters

Economic Development - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland -
Reorganization

This bill reduces the membership of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and requires the council to elect a chair from among its members who represent the private sector.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations. The Governor's proposed FY 2015 budget includes \$150,000 for council operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The membership of the council is reduced from 39 (as described below) to 15, largely through a reduction in State and county membership on the council. Specifically, the council membership consists of the following:

- one member of the General Assembly representing the region, as appointed by the members of the General Assembly representing the region;
- one commissioner from either Calvert, Charles, or St. Mary's county, beginning with Calvert County in 2014, and determined on an annual rotating basis;

- one member appointed by the president of the Southern Maryland Municipal Association;
- one member of the public sector from each of the three counties, appointed by the board of county commissioners for each county; and
- three members of the private sector from each of the three counties, appointed by the members of the General Assembly representing the county.

All members are voting members. Each member of the council serves at the pleasure of the individuals or board that appointed the member.

Current Law: The council consists of 39 members, of which 31 are voting members and 8 are nonvoting members. The council must elect a chair from among its members. The membership consists of the following:

- three State senators and nine State delegates who represent the Southern Maryland region, as voting members;
- five county commissioners from each of Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, as voting members;
- one voting member appointed by the president of the Southern Maryland Municipal league;
- one voting member at large from each of the three counties;
- one nonvoting member from each of the three counties appointed by the county's economic development commission;
- one nonvoting member from each of the three counties appointed by the county's planning and zoning commission;
- one nonvoting member appointed by the Department of Business and Economic Development; and
- one nonvoting member appointed by the Maryland Department of Planning.

The council is a cooperative planning and development unit for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The purposes of the council are to (1) foster the physical, economic, and social development of the region and (2) use effectively the assistance provided to the region by the State. The council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the region as a Southern Maryland planning and development unit.

Background: The council's mission is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting the Southern Maryland region. Activities of the council include research, information management, and the preparation of a regional plan. All of the activities of the council are designed to assist federal, State, and county governments in better performing their respective duties.

The State budget includes annual funding for five regional councils in the Department of Business and Economic Development's budget. Each council has received \$150,000 annually in fiscal 2013 and 2014, the same amount proposed in fiscal 2015.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2014
ncs/rhh

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