

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1367 (Delegate Wilson)
Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Forests, Parks, and Recreation Areas - Posted Notice of
Safety Information

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to post a notice in a conspicuous location at each State forest, park, and recreational area that contains (1) any applicable rules; (2) the location of any hunting zones; (3) the location of any hazard or danger; (4) the physical address for the State forest, park, or recreational area; (5) the emergency telephone number for the State forest, park, or recreational area; and (6) 9-1-1 as the emergency telephone number for general emergency assistance.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not affect State finances; DNR advises that the bill is consistent with current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR is authorized to make rules and regulations for the maintenance of order, safety, sanitation, traffic control, or for the protection of trees and other property and the preservation of the natural beauty within the State parks and forests, State reserves, scenic preserves, parkways, historical monuments, recreational areas, and any other lands under its control. The rules and regulations must be posted in conspicuous places on the lands and enforced by the forest and park officers. DNR must also prepare, print, and distribute on request, matter relating to the State forests, parks, scenic preserves, parkways, historic monuments, and recreational areas.

Background: DNR advises that the bill's requirements are consistent with the department's current practice with respect to State forests, parks, and recreational areas. Specifically, in State forests and parks, maps and other information, including maps of hunting areas and emergency phone numbers, are posted. Hunting area boundaries are marked with signs, and warning signs are posted at known hazardous areas. The DNR website and social media are also used to provide information about potential hazards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2014
mc/lgc

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