

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 360 (Calvert County Senators)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Environment and Transportation

Calvert County - Budget Hearings and Procedures

This bill alters the procedures for preparing and adopting the annual budget for Calvert County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice in Calvert County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: On or before a date set by the Calvert County Commissioners, each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds must submit to the county commissioners and to the Director of Finance and Budget, or the director's designee, an itemized budget request for all funds requested for the next fiscal year for compilation into the staff-recommended budget. The county commissioners must conduct a public hearing on the staff-recommended budget and publish notice of the time and place of this hearing in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held. At least one of the newspapers must be a newspaper of general circulation in the county. At the hearing on the staff-recommended budget, county citizens may present their views on budget requests and funding levels.

After the hearing on the staff-recommended budget and before taking final action to adopt a budget, the county commissioners must conduct a second public hearing to permit county

residents to comment on the county commissioners' budget. The county commissioners must publish notice of the time and place of the hearing on the county commissioners' budget in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held. At least one of the newspapers must be a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

After holding the record open for at least 10 days after the hearing on the county commissioners' budget, the final county budget must be adopted by a resolution approved by the county commissioners. At least one week before each public hearing on a proposed county budget, the proposed county budget must be filed with the clerk of the county commissioners and be available for public inspection on the county's website.

One copy of each proposed county budget must be supplied to each newspaper of general circulation in the county and to each branch of the county library and copies must be made available to the public at or below cost.

Current Law: At a public hearing held on the date set by the county commissioners, each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds must submit to the county commissioners and to the Director of Administration and Finance, an itemized budget request for all funds requested for the next fiscal year. The county commissioners must publish notice of the time and place of this hearing in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held. At this hearing, county citizens may present their views on budget requests and funding levels.

Before taking final action on a proposed budget, the county commissioners must hold a public hearing to permit county residents to comment on it. The county commissioners must publish notice of the time and place of the hearing in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held. The final budget must be adopted by a resolution approved by the county commissioners. By the time of the first notice of public hearing, the proposed county budget must be filed with the clerk of the county commissioners and be available for public inspection. One copy must be supplied to each newspaper of general circulation in the county and to each branch of the county library, and copies must be made available to the public at or below cost.

Background: Calvert County operates under the commission form of government and is governed by five county commissioners. Calvert County's official website is found at <http://www.co.cal.md.us>.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510