

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 326 (Delegate Krimm)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Environment - Monocacy River Watershed - Water Resources Plan**

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This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to engage with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) on the development and implementation of a comprehensive water resources plan for the portion of the Monocacy River watershed in Maryland. MDE must submit a report to specified legislative committees by December 31 each year on the status of the plan and the conclusions and recommendations of any study associated with the plan.

The bill terminates September 30, 2020.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances. MDE advises that it can implement the bill with existing resources and through ongoing planned activities.

**Local Effect:** The bill itself does not directly affect local government operations or finances. However, local jurisdictions within the Monocacy River watershed could be affected by the plan developed as a result of the bill.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill itself does not directly affect small businesses. The extent to which the plan developed pursuant to the bill has any impact on small businesses is unknown.

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## Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** In 1940, the U.S. Congress established ICPRB as an interstate compact between Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the federal government. ICPRB works to enhance, protect, and conserve the water and associated land resources of the Potomac River basin through coordination, the operation of various projects, and the production of numerous studies and resource assessments of the tributaries and watersheds within the Potomac Basin.

In 2012, ICPRB, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, released the Critical Area Resource Plan for the Marsh and Rock Creek watersheds in Adams County, Pennsylvania. This effort was initiated by Pennsylvania's enactment of Act 220 of 2002. The primary purposes of the nonregulatory plan were to identify and evaluate water resource issues affecting water availability for human and ecosystem use and to identify management actions to address the issues and enhance the sustainability of water resources in the area.

In Maryland, the Monocacy River watershed is located primarily within Frederick and Carroll counties, with a small portion in northern Montgomery County.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2015  
mar/lgc

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