

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 234 (Delegates Grammer and Metzgar)
Environment and Transportation

Finance

State Highways - Electronic Map of State Roads by State Legislative District

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to develop a searchable electronic map for each State legislative district that includes all State roads. Each map must contain (1) the position of each State road; (2) the prefix, suffix, route number, and name of the road; and (3) the name of the State agency that owns the road. The maps must be made publicly available on SHA's website. SHA must promptly revise and update the maps to show any changes in the inventory of State roads in the legislative districts. If SHA does not update a map during a calendar year, it must audit the map by March 31 of the following year to ensure that it is still accurate. Finally, SHA must note on each map the date it was last updated or audited.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Minimal or none.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small businesses that make frequent use of government geographic data may benefit from the maps created under the bill.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: SHA is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound barriers in the State. It also has responsibility for

planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns.

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is required to cooperate with and assist other units of State government in the execution of their planning functions. To this end, MDP collaborates with State agencies, local governments, and the private sector, providing assistance, data, and other information (including maps) as needed to promote the State's economic growth, resource protection, and State Development Plan.

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system in which geographically referenced data are entered and stored electronically and can be manipulated to display selected geographic data. GIS products are drawings, lists, maps, narrative descriptions, photographs, or other hard-copy formats that depict spatial data. GIS products are widely and freely available from both private entities (such as through Google Maps and Google Earth) and government entities.

State Expenditures: The websites for both SHA and MDP contain detailed maps that partially meet the bill's requirements. SHA has maps that depict the State roadway infrastructure, while MDP has maps of the State legislative district boundaries. Both agencies advise that the searchable, electronic maps required by the bill can be developed using existing resources and information. SHA has all of the data needed to develop the maps, and MDP advises that it can collaborate with SHA to provide any additional support or information needed to meet the bill's requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Legislative Services

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kb/lgc

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