

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 2

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Planning)

Finance

Environment and Transportation

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority - Revision of Boundaries and Boundary Maps

This departmental bill allows the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), when it amends or revises boundaries of a recognized heritage area, to publish in the Maryland Register a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to a geographical information system (GIS) file that is posted on a State website and meets other conditions, rather than publishing in the register a revised drawing or boundary description. The bill also modifies a requirement that boundary maps for each recognized heritage area be kept on file at the office of the county clerk where the recognized heritage area is located, instead requiring MHAA to send a copy of each boundary map to the office of the county clerk where the recognized heritage area is located.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

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

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Planning has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: MHAA may amend or revise boundaries of a recognized heritage area (1) with the approval of all of the local jurisdictions where the property to be added or

removed is located and (2) on publication of a revised drawing or boundary description in the Maryland Register. Boundary maps must be kept on file at MHAA and at the office of the county clerk where the recognized heritage area is located.

Background: MHAA, along with the Maryland Historical Trust, implements the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. There are currently 13 designated heritage areas across the State, which, pursuant to statute, are intended to reflect the cultural themes of the State's development and provide educational, inspirational, economic, and recreational benefits for present and future generations. The heritage areas are proposed by local jurisdictions and approved by MHAA according to specific criteria. MHAA provides targeted financial and technical assistance within the heritage areas.

GIS is a computer system capable of capturing, storing, and displaying data on a map. Heritage area boundaries are currently maintained by MHAA in GIS format. Being able to provide revised boundaries to the public in GIS format is expected to be more functional and user-friendly than published drawings or boundary descriptions, allowing the boundaries to be viewed and understood in more detail.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Planning; Secretary of State; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2017
md/lgc Third Reader - January 25, 2017

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Designated Heritage Areas – Published Boundaries

BILL NUMBER: SB 2

PREPARED BY: Courtney Highsmith

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will allow Maryland small businesses easier access to view boundary changes in certified heritage areas. All information will be accessible from one location, relieving small businesses from having to retrieve data from multiple locations.