

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 183 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission
PG 411-18

This bill establishes the Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission to study environmental justice issues in Prince George's County and make recommendations regarding (1) actions that should be taken to address environmental justice issues in the county and (2) whether the duration of the commission should be extended. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment must provide staff for the commission. The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County House Delegation by December 31, 2018. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$74,000 in FY 2019 only to support the work of the commission. Local revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: There is no environmental justice commission within Prince George's County. There is a Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) within the Maryland Department of the Environment, however. CEJSC, which was established by executive order in 2001 and codified in 2003, is tasked

with examining issues of “environmental justice” and sustainable communities for all Marylanders. To this end, CEJSC reviews and analyzes the environmental justice implications of current State policy, laws, and regulations; assesses the adequacy of State and local laws to address the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities; coordinates with the Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council on recommendations to further environmental justice and sustainable communities; develops criteria to assess whether communities may be experiencing environmental justice issues; and recommends options to the Governor for addressing issues, concerns, or problems related to environmental justice. “Environmental justice” means equal protection from environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income, culture, and social status.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures for the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment increase by \$74,000 in fiscal 2019 only, which accounts for a 30-day start-up delay. This estimate is based on information provided by the county and reflects the cost of (1) procuring contractual services to study environmental justice issues in the county and (2) holding commission meetings (including costs for communications, meeting space, and refreshments). The estimate assumes that existing county staff contribute to the work of the commission. Any expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2018
nb/lgc Third Reader - April 9, 2018

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