

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 676

(Senator Conway)(By Request - Baltimore City
Administration)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Baltimore City - Community Benefits Districts

This bill amends the Baltimore City charter to repeal the limitation on the number of community benefits district management authorities that the mayor and the city council may establish.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Additional local expenditures for supplemental public services within new community benefits districts will be financed through revenues generated from the districts. The bill does not have a direct effect on Baltimore City finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Baltimore City is authorized to establish by ordinance up to six community benefits district management authorities, including the Charles Village Community Benefits District and the Midtown Community Benefits District, within the city to provide services to the business interests and residents of the proposed district. The functions of community benefits district management authorities are to (1) promote and market the districts; (2) provide supplemental security and maintenance services; (3) provide amenities in public areas; and (4) provide park and recreational programs and functions and other services as approved by the mayor and the city council.

In adopting an ordinance to establish a community benefits district, the city council must (1) give consideration to the views of the property owners, the retail merchants, the property tenants, and the other members of the business and residential communities within the district; (2) make a determination that a district will reflect a diverse mix of business and residential properties; and (3) make a determination that a district created will reflect a diverse economic, social, and racial mix.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill authorizes Baltimore City to expand the current number of community benefit districts. Such districts have authority to impose property taxes to finance the operation and delivery of public services. Additional revenues may be generated by more community benefits districts, but any revenue effect depends on the number of new districts authorized by the city and the specific projects authorized within new districts.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses in new community benefits districts may be subject to higher taxes and fees; however, they may also benefit from increased services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 788 (Delegate Anderson)(By Request - Baltimore City Administration) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2018
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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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