

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 303  
Appropriations

(Delegate Moon, *et al.*)

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Interstate Compact on Washington Area Professional Football Team Franchise  
Facility Incentives

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This bill establishes the Interstate Compact on Washington Area Professional Football Team Franchise Facility Incentives (compact). A party state to the compact (Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC), a local jurisdiction located in a party state, or an authority or corporation established by a party state or local jurisdiction is prohibited from providing or offering to provide specified types of financial assistance for the construction of facilities for the Washington area professional football team. **The bill takes effect as early as October 1, 2019, contingent upon enactment of similar legislation by Virginia and Washington, DC, which must occur by January 1, 2022, or the bill is null and void.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The procedural provisions of the bill do not materially affect State finances or operations. The effect on any future financial assistance provided by the State, a State authority, or a State corporation, if any, to the Washington area football team is unknown.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government finances or operations. The effect on any future financial assistance provided by local governments, if any, to the Washington area football team is unknown.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Beginning October 1, 2019, a party state to the compact, a local jurisdiction located in a party state, or an authority or a corporation established by a party state or local jurisdiction may not:

- provide or offer to provide public incentives or financing for the construction of facilities for the Washington area professional football team unless public incentives or financing are otherwise available to all development projects or business entities located in the party state;
- utilize public funds for the construction or maintenance of facilities for the Washington area professional football team;
- utilize public funds for infrastructure improvements required by newly constructed facilities for the Washington area professional football team; or
- lease or donate land to the Washington area professional football team or an entity affiliated with the Washington area professional football team.

A party state may withdraw from the compact only after providing one year's notice to the other party states. A party state is not required to comply with the compact if the party state's Attorney General determines that another party state has repealed, replaced, or failed to implement any aspect of the compact.

**Current Law/Background:** The current stadium for the Washington area professional football team is located in Prince George's County and opened for operations in 1997. Per the [agreement](#) that provided land and some State and local financial incentives for the stadium project, the team must play all home games at the stadium for 30 years. After that time, the team may play elsewhere. Several sites have already been publicly considered as relocation options. Recently, it was publicly disclosed that the Hogan Administration signed a nonbinding [memorandum of understanding](#) with the National Park Service in 2017 to repurpose federal land (Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm) near I-95 and National Harbor in Prince George's County. The potential agreement would involve a swap with State park land in Western Maryland.

Similar legislation has been introduced in both [Washington, DC](#) and [Virginia](#) in 2019.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 229 of 2018, a similar bill, received a hearing from the House Appropriations Committee, but was withdrawn. HB 1049 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing from the House Appropriations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Commerce; Board of Public Works; Department of General Services; Comptroller's Office; Maryland Economic Development Corporation; Montgomery County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2019  
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Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

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