

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 55

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Planning)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

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**Department of Planning - Central Depository**

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This departmental bill clarifies that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is the central depository for all land use plans, and amendments and revisions to the plans, adopted by a unit of the State government, of a regional government, or of a local government, or by an interstate agency. The bill requires each unit of government or agency to submit a current version of all plans, amendments, and revisions to MDP, and MDP must post on the department's website those that are submitted in an electronic format.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill is expected to be implemented by local governments with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** MDP has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** MDP must establish a central depository for specified general, area, and functional plans, and all amendments or revisions to the plans, prepared by any unit of the State government, of a regional government, or of a local government, or by any interstate agency. Each unit of government and interstate agency must submit to MDP plans required by regulations adopted by the Secretary of Planning. MDP's implementing regulations

describe the depository as a resource center for the department, as well as State, interstate, regional, and local government agencies, citizens, interest groups, government consultants, and others. Under the regulations, copies of plans, and amendments or revisions to the plans, are submitted to the department's physical address and made available for examination and use during regular office hours at the department's central office.

**Background:** MDP indicates that the current statutory and regulatory requirements for the central depository are not followed consistently and there have not been recent requests to view the plans since most are available online on the jurisdictions' websites. Allowing for the plans to be submitted and maintained electronically is expected to create a more streamlined and user-friendly system.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 131 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Environment and Transportation Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Planning; Department of General Services; Caroline County; cities of Bowie and Takoma Park; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 8, 2019  
mm/lgc Third Reader - March 14, 2019  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 14, 2019

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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Planning – Central Depository

BILL NUMBER: SB 55

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 have a minimal impact on Maryland small business. It will benefit small businesses by having information accessible online in one location, relieving small businesses from having to retrieve data from multiple locations or having to do it in person.