

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 267 (Senator Klausmeier)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Task Force on Prohibiting Debris From Entering Storm Drains or Stormwater Inlets**

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This emergency bill establishes the Task Force on Prohibiting Debris from Entering Storm Drains or Stormwater Inlets. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the State Highway Administration (SHA) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2019. **The bill terminates November 1, 2019.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MDE, DNR, and SHA are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must:

- study methods of preventing plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains and stormwater inlets and washing into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries through stormwater runoff;

- study the feasibility of incorporating grates in all storm drains and stormwater inlets to prevent debris from entering the drains and inlets during a rain event;
- study the costs associated with preventing plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains and stormwater inlets;
- study potential funding sources to implement measures that will prevent plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains and stormwater inlets;
- study the potential for the creation of pilot programs to prevent plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains and stormwater inlets; and
- make recommendations regarding the prevention of plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains and stormwater inlets.

Task force members may not receive compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Current Law:** The General Assembly first enacted the Stormwater Management Act in 1982 and has amended it several times since. Stormwater management initially focused on urban flood prevention, later evolved into resource management, and, more recently, has become an environmental and regulatory function. According to the Office of the Attorney General, under the Stormwater Management Act, the legislature found that the management of stormwater runoff is necessary to reduce stream channel erosion, pollution, siltation and sedimentation, and local flooding in order to protect the State's water and land resources. The intent of the Stormwater Management Act is to reduce, as much as possible, the adverse effects of stormwater runoff. To achieve that goal, the Act requires each county and municipality to have an ordinance implementing a stormwater management program that is consistent with flood management plans and that meets certain minimum requirements.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 410 (Delegate Impallaria, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2019  
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