

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 396

Finance

(Cecil County Senators)

Ways and Means

Economic Development - Upper Shore Regional Council - Membership

This bill alters the voting membership of the Upper Shore Regional Council by removing the three Cecil County commissioner positions and replacing them with the County Executive of Cecil County and two members of the Cecil County Council. The bill also clarifies the nonvoting membership of the council.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal. The bill does not alter overall voting membership on the council. In practice, three Cecil County councilmembers serve as voting members of the Upper Shore Regional Council, as the county no longer has commissioners following a transition to charter government. The bill alters current practice by substituting the Cecil County Executive for one councilmember as a voting member and clarifies that the remaining council members are nonvoting members.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Upper Shore Regional Council is one of five rural regional planning and development councils in the State. The purposes of the council are to foster the physical, economic, and social development of the region and effectively use the assistance provided to the region by the State. The council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the region as a planning and development unit for the Upper Eastern Shore. The voting members of the council are:

- from Cecil County, three commissioners, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners;
- from Kent County, the three commissioners;
- from Queen Anne's County, three commissioners, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners;
- three municipal elected officials, one from each county, generally appointed by their respective municipalities; and
- if the majority of the member's legislative district is in the region, each member of the General Assembly representing the region.

The nonvoting members of the council are:

- each commissioner in the region who is not appointed as a voting member;
- each other member of the General Assembly representing the region if the majority of the member's legislative district is not in the region; and
- three county administrators, one from each county.

A member of the council is not entitled to compensation as a member of the council. The council may hire an executive director. The State and Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties may jointly finance the council and its activities, subject to specified local funding minimums.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1229 (Cecil County Delegation) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Cecil County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2023
rh/lgc Third Reader - March 9, 2023
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