

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1055

(Delegate Qi, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment – Highways – Salt Application

This bill requires each State agency, county, and municipality to maintain records of each highway salt application made for the winter weather season and submit, by July 1 each year, a report to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on its annual highway salt application for the previous fiscal year, including (1) the total amount of salt applied and (2) the amount of salt the jurisdiction had at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State agencies can track and report the required information to MDE using existing budgeted resources, and MDE advises that it can receive the reports submitted under the bill using existing budgeted resources. The Department of Legislative Services notes that the bill only requires MDE to receive the reports; it does not establish any other ongoing requirements for MDE. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local governments can track and submit the required information to MDE using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Highway Administration (SHA) must annually update, and publish on its website, a best practices guidance document for use by local jurisdictions and the State to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of road salt runoff in the State. In the guidance document, SHA is authorized to:

- establish best management practices that protect the environment from the negative impacts of road salt;
- identify all activities that may result in the release of road salt into the environment;
- take into consideration highway safety to the greatest extent possible;
- establish standards and procedures for identifying areas that are particularly vulnerable to road salt runoff and additional road salt management practices that need to be implemented in those areas;
- establish goals for achieving a reduction of the environmental impact of road salt released into the environment;
- include a training program for all State, local, and contract personnel who perform winter maintenance activities involving the use of road salt;
- establish response procedures to address uncontrolled releases of road salt that may adversely impact the environment; and
- establish recordkeeping and annual reporting procedures for the quantity of road salt used, the locations where the road salt is used, and any training conducted.

The current guidance, referred to as the [Maryland State Highway Administration Salt Management Plan](#), can be found on SHA's website and includes detailed information and data about the use of road salt by State and local agencies. The guidance explicitly recommends that agencies [keep up-to-date records](#) of all winter operations, especially records of salting. The guidance also includes statistics on [SHA's own winter salt usage](#).

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland State Department of Education; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Environmental Service; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; University System of Maryland; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Department of Juvenile Services; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Community College; City of Frostburg; Department of Legislative Services

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