

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 480

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

St. Mary's County – County Plans – Public Sewerage Systems and Water Supply Systems

This bill repeals requirements and restrictions related to additional local review that must occur before St. Mary's County is authorized to adopt, revise, or amend its county water and sewerage plan for provisions in the county plan related to new or expanded public sewerage systems and water supply systems.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill does not have a direct impact on State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Minimal. The bill results in operational efficiencies for St. Mary's County but is not anticipated to materially affect county finances. Other local jurisdictions are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: *Under current law and the bill*, each county (including Baltimore City) must have an individual or group (with adjoining counties) plan that is approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment that has a 10-year forecasted water and sewerage plan to demonstrate how safe and adequate water and sewerage facilities will be provided to support planned redevelopment and new growth that is outlined in their comprehensive land use plans.

Under current law and the bill, except as specified, before a county governing body may adopt a county plan or a revision or amendment to the county plan, the county governing body must submit the county plan, revision, or amendment to each official planning agency that has jurisdiction in the county, as specified, for review and comment within a 30-day period for consistency with planning programs for the area. The county planning agency must also certify that the plan, revision, or amendment is consistent with the county's comprehensive plan.

Under current law, in St. Mary's County, a new or expanded public sewerage system or water supply system may not be allowed unless the adoption, revision, or amendment to the county plan is reviewed by the St. Mary's County Planning Commission and approved by the Board of County Commissioners (or the commissioners' designee, as specified). Further, the commissioners may not approve the adoption, revision, or amendment until the St. Mary's County Planning Commission conducts a complete review of the county plan and holds (or arranges to be held) at least one public hearing on the plan. When conducting its review and making a recommendation, the St. Mary's County Planning Commission must consider and make certain findings of fact, as specified. *Under the bill*, these St. Mary's County-specific provisions are repealed.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2025
js/lgc
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