

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 276 (Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - General
Services)

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Forms - Reporting Requirement - Repeal

This departmental bill repeals the requirement that, by July 31 of each year, each department or independent unit of State government must submit to the Records Management Division (RMD) of the Department of General Services (DGS) an annual report on its management of its forms during the previous fiscal year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DGS has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Records Management Division – Generally

RMD is responsible for (1) inspecting the records of the units of State government; (2) studying the records management practices of units of State government; (3) reviewing a proposal to buy or rent equipment, storage space, or services for records, and making

recommendations about the proposal to the Department of Budget and Management or the Board of Public Works; (4) reporting, for each specified five-year period, a series analysis of the character and quantity of records that a unit of State government holds and that an official of the State government or the head of a unit is required or permitted to offer to Maryland State Archives; and (5) otherwise furthering the records management programs of each unit of State government.

Forms Management

Title 10, Subtitle 6, Part I of the State Government Article (“Forms Management”), defines a “form” as a document that has a standard format for the systematic and repetitive collection, maintenance, or transmission of information. It establishes the information that must be included on forms utilized by each department and each independent unit of State government. Generally, the head of each department and independent unit must designate a forms management officer for that unit, and the officer must keep a current plan for the management of the forms that the unit uses, administer the plan, and submit the plan (including each revision) to RMD. Statute specifies what must be included in the plan, including a register of the forms that the forms management officer approves.

Annual Report on Forms Management

A department or independent unit of State government may use only the forms that are listed on its register of approved forms. By July 31 of each year, each department or independent unit must submit to RMD an annual report on its activities as to the management of its forms during the previous fiscal year.

DGS advises that [Chapters 47](#) and 48 of 2023 repealed the requirement that RMD submit an annual report to the General Assembly that consolidates the submitted forms management reports by each department and independent unit that DGS receives. However, the Acts did not repeal the requirement that each department or independent unit submit an annual report on its form management to RMD. DGS advises that the bill will bring conformity with the removal of the remaining reporting requirement, reduce unnecessary labor at State agencies, and reduce the production and storage of unnecessary government records.

Additional Comment: DLS advises that should the bill be enacted, each department and independent unit will still have to submit its annual report on the management of forms for the prior fiscal year to RMD by July 31, 2025, as the bill’s effective date is October 1, 2025.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 260 (Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)(By Request - Departmental - General Services) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Accountability and Implementation Board; Department of Commerce; Department of General Services; Department of Human Services; Maryland Cannabis Administration; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Maryland Department of Labor; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Insurance Administration; Maryland State Archives; Maryland State Board of Elections; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Office of Administrative Hearings; Public Service Commission; State Ethics Commission; State Retirement Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2025
js/mcr

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Government - Forms - Reporting Requirement - Repeal

BILL NUMBER: HB 276

PREPARED BY: Christian Skipper

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

X 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

This bill is anticipated to have minimal or no economic impact on Maryland small business, because it only removes a reporting requirement from Maryland State agencies.