

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 218 (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee)(By
Request - Office of the Attorney General)

Environment and Transportation

Office of the Attorney General - Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes
Unit - Reporting Requirement

This bill alters, from November 30 to October 1, the date by which the Attorney General must submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) the activities of the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit and (2) any actions taken by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) or the Department of Natural Resources in response to findings and recommendations of the unit. The bill also specifies that the report must cover the activities of the unit *during the previous fiscal year*. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapters 689 and 690 of 2023 established the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to investigate and prosecute violations of State criminal environmental and natural resources laws.

OAG advises that the bill's changes align the annual report date and reporting period to that of MDE's annual report covering enforcement activities and compliance data. The change is intended to streamline reporting obligations, reduce administrative burden, and ensure consistency in reporting.

OAG's second annual [report](#) covers the activities of the unit (and related actions) from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2026
jg/jkb

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