

**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

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

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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.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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.

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## **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  
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