

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1349 (Delegate Kullen)
Environmental Matters

Task Force to Study the Patuxent River Commission

This bill creates the Task Force to Study the Patuxent River Commission, staffed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the focus and work of the Patuxent River Commission (PRC.)

The task force must report its finding to the Governor and the House Environmental Matters and Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committees by December 31, 2007.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates June 30, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DNR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: PRC is an inter-jurisdictional group that was established in 1980 to address Patuxent watershed issues. PRC is responsible for the implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan; in 1995 PRC was expanded to 34 members and it took on the additional role of the Patuxent Tributary Team. The focus of the Patuxent River Policy

Plan is to address programmatic and land management issues while the Patuxent Tributary Team Strategy seeks to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. PRC's membership represents a cross-section of the watershed's interest groups and serves as a forum for the protection and restoration of the river's economic, recreational, and environmental resources. Membership includes businesses; developers; State and local governments; federal facilities; and environmental, academic, agricultural, and watermen interests.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 21, 2007
nas/ljm

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