

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 922 (Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bay Restoration Fund - Septic Systems - Nitrogen Removal Projects

This bill prohibits a local government from prohibiting the placement of an addition on the home of an individual who receives a Bay Restoration Fund grant.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Bay Restoration Fund expenditures may accelerate minimally to the extent that more septic system owners are awarded grants or loans in Anne Arundel County.

Local Effect: Potential operational impact on the Anne Arundel County Health Department from additional Bay Restoration Fund grant applications and permitting activities.

Small Business Effect: Minimal beneficial impact for small business septic system servicers.

Analysis

Current Law: Of the Bay Restoration Fund revenues collected from users of septic systems and sewage holding tanks, 60% is deposited into the Septics Account to provide grants and loans to septic system owners to upgrade their septic systems and to implement an education and outreach program. Chapters 225 and 226 of 2008 expanded the uses of the Septics Account to include providing grants or loans for up to 100% of the cost of replacing multiple septic systems in the same community with a new community sewerage system that meets enhanced nitrogen removal (ENR) standards.

Background: MDE advises that although it employs four full-time employees to oversee the permitting of septic systems and evaluation of best available ENR technologies, much of the administration of the Bay Restoration Fund program is carried out at the local level, in particular by county health departments. Anne Arundel County is the only county in the State that prohibits the placement of additions on the homes of individuals who accept Bay Restoration Fund grant money for nitrogen-removing septic systems.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1106 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2009
mam/ljm

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