

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1145
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Task Force to Study Energy Generation in Prince George's County
PG 416-13

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Energy Generation in Prince George's County. The task force must study the extent to which energy generation within the county is able to meet the county's current and projected energy needs. The task force must make recommendations regarding (1) whether energy generation in Prince George's County should be increased; (2) appropriate forms of energy generation for the county; and (3) appropriate locations for energy generation in the county. The Prince George's County government must provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, the Prince George's County Senators, the Prince George's County Delegation, the Prince George's County Executive, and the Prince George's County Council by December 31, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013, and terminates May 31, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Prince George's County can staff the task force with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Power Plant Research Advisory Committee is an advisory body to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), whose main tasks are to review the goals, policy practices, and major directions of the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) within the department. PPRP was created in 1971 to conduct research on the impacts of existing and proposed power plants in each county. PPRP is required to undertake a continuing research program for electric power plant site evaluation and related environmental and land use considerations.

The licensing of new electric power plants in the State is a comprehensive two-part process involving the Public Service Commission and several other State agencies, *e.g.*, DNR and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The commission is the lead agency for licensing the siting, construction, and operation of power plants in the State.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Prince George's County had 2,972 megawatts of electricity generating capacity in 2011, including sources such as natural gas, landfill gas, and coal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/lgc

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