

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 849 (Senator Mathias)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Beach Erosion Control District - Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum

This bill allows for the construction of additions and alterations to the existing Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum building if the building and additions are owned by Ocean City and if the construction is approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the appropriate soil conservation district. The bill allows for such construction by establishing an exception to an existing prohibition against any land clearing, construction activity, or the construction or placement of permanent structures within the Beach Erosion Control District.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: While the bill allows for a proposal for the construction of additions and alterations to the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum building to move forward, it does not directly affect local government (Town of Ocean City) finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Subject to exceptions, any land clearing, construction activity, or the construction or placement of permanent structures within the Beach Erosion Control District is prohibited, in order to (1) maintain the Atlantic Coast beaches of the State and the Beach Erosion Control District, and the integrity and continuity of the dunal system; (2) assure adequate maintenance of the beaches, Beach Erosion Control District, and dunal system; (3) provide for shore erosion and sediment control, and storm protection; and

(4) minimize structural interference with the littoral drift of sand and any anchoring vegetation.

The Beach Erosion Control District is the area of land bordered on the north by the boundary line between Maryland and Delaware, bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, bordered on the south by the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, and bordered on the west by (1) a line from the Maryland-Virginia boundary to Ocean City Inlet which coincides, more or less, with the west crest of the existing natural dune on Assateague Island and (2) the State-Ocean City building limit line (described by regulation), from Ocean City Inlet to the Maryland-Delaware boundary.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of the Environment; Worcester County; Town of Ocean City; Department of Legislative Services

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