

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1094 (Delegate Ruth)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility**

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This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to convene a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility that serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The workgroup must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022. The bill establishes several specific proposals that must be included in the report. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MDE can convene the workgroup, and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) can participate in the workgroup, with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Any costs for local governments to participate in the workgroup are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The required report must include proposals (1) for the siting of a regional waste disposal facility; (2) for sharing costs associated with establishing a regional waste disposal facility; (3) for developing service networks; (4) that consider modern technology and consolidation needs, as specified; (5) that provide a commitment to phase out incineration; (6) that focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and (7) that advance principles of zero waste.

**Current Law:** The solid waste infrastructure in Maryland consists of both permitted and nonpermitted facilities, and solid waste is managed through a combination of recycling, composting, landfilling, energy recovery, and exporting for disposal or recycling.

There are several examples of regional waste management partnerships in the State. The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) and the Midshore Regional Solid Waste Partnership, which is operated by MES, both assist multiple local jurisdictions with their waste management needs.

#### *Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority*

Chapter 871 of 1980 established NMWDA and codified the General Assembly's statement of purpose regarding NMWDA. This statement includes the mission for NMWDA to improve health and living conditions in the State through the efficient collection and disposal of waste on a regional basis and the generation of energy and recovery of useable resources from such waste to the extent practicable. NMWDA assists member jurisdictions with the planning and development of waste management and waste-to-energy systems by serving as a regional coordinating agency and a financing vehicle for facilities. Member jurisdictions include Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery counties and Baltimore City.

#### *Maryland Environmental Service*

MES was established by the General Assembly in 1970 as an instrumentality of the State and a self-supporting, not-for-profit public corporation that serves State, local, and federal agencies and the private sector through designing, planning, financing, constructing, operating, and monitoring projects for water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management, composting, recycling, dredged material management, hazardous materials cleanup, stormwater services, and renewable energy. Among other things, MES operates the Midshore Regional Solid Waste Partnership, which consists of four planned facilities that serve the solid waste needs of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties. Under the partnership, each county hosts the municipal landfill for 20 years. MES owns the facilities and is responsible for all permitting, design, construction, operational, and post-closure requirements.

**Additional Comments:** MDE advises that Baltimore and Harford counties have an existing agreement in which some of Harford County's waste is processed through the transfer facility at the Baltimore County Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 650 (Senator Klausmeier)(By Request - Baltimore County Administration) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Harford counties; Maryland Environmental Service; Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2021  
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Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510