

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1178 (Delegates Harrison and Toles)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Municipalities - Annexation - Limitations

This emergency bill prohibits a municipality from annexing land that is: (1) located in a different legislative district than a legislative district in which all or part of the municipality is located without first obtaining the consent of the members of the delegation to the General Assembly for the district in which the land is located; (2) owned by the United States, the State, a political subdivision of the State, without first obtaining the consent of the governmental entity that owns the land; or (3) owned by an entity exempt from federal income taxes under § 501 of the Internal Revenue Code without first obtaining the consent of the entity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Potential impact on municipal government operations or finances, to the extent that the bill prevents or delays a planned annexation by a municipality.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A municipality may enlarge its boundaries by annexation of land, subject to various criteria and procedures established in Title 4, Subtitle 4 of the Local Government Article, including adoption of an annexation plan (a plan for providing municipal services to the annexed area) and enactment of an annexation resolution.

The power of annexation applies only to land that is contiguous and adjoining to the existing boundaries of the municipality and does not create an unincorporated area that is bounded on all sides by: (1) real property presently in the boundaries of the municipality; (2) real property proposed to be in the boundaries of the municipality; or (3) any combination of real property that is either presently or proposed to be in the boundaries of the municipality.

A municipality may not annex land that is in another municipality.

A [map](#) depicting each municipality in Maryland by legislative district is available on the Department of Legislative Services [website](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1525 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Planning; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2026
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