

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 53
Finance

(Senator Simonaire)

**Maryland Port Administration - Acquisition of Land in Anne Arundel County -
Notice of Public Hearing**

This bill requires the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) to provide written notice to the Anne Arundel County Delegation to the General Assembly at least two weeks before the announcement of a public hearing held pursuant to a current law provision that prohibits MPA from acquiring any interest in land or improvements on land in the county without the prior approval of the county, given after a public hearing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MPA can notify the Anne Arundel County Delegation using existing budgeted resources; however, MPA may not always be able to meet the two-week deadline required by the bill, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Anne Arundel County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Subject to specified requirements and prohibitions, MPA may acquire in its own name, by purchase or by condemnation, any property, including any public land, land lying under water, or riparian right, necessary or convenient to construct or operate any project. However, in order to purchase or condemn any property located in any political subdivision of the State (*i.e.*, a county, Baltimore City, or a municipality), MPA must make a written request for approval to the appropriate local government. A request is deemed to

have been approved unless MPA is notified in writing within 90 days that the request has not been approved.

Specific to Anne Arundel County, MPA may not acquire any interest in land or improvements on land in the county without the prior approval of Anne Arundel County, given after a public hearing.

State Expenditures: MPA can provide written notice using existing budgeted resources. However, Anne Arundel County handles the planning, organizing, and scheduling of the public hearings required before it may approve MPA acquisitions of interest in land or improvements on land in the county. Because MPA is not involved with the scheduling of the public hearings, if the county does not provide sufficient advance notice to MPA regarding its plan to hold a hearing, MPA may not be able to provide written notice to the delegation at least two weeks before the announcement of such a hearing.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 354 (Delegate Kipke, *et al.*) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Anne Arundel County; Department of Legislative Services

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