

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 387 (Charles County Delegation)  
Environment and Transportation

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Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding

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This bill increases the amount of money that Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties must *each* appropriate to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to \$125,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2021. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties increase by up to \$30,800 per county annually beginning in FY 2021, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected. **The bill increases a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Under current law, Calvert County must appropriate \$7,000 to the council each year, while Charles and St. Mary's counties must each appropriate \$9,000. In practice, each county is providing \$94,200 in fiscal 2020.

The council receives a combination of federal, State, and local funding (State funding is not affected by the bill). The council advises that its fiscal 2020 budget is \$6.7 million, comprising \$2.6 million in federal funding, \$3.7 million in State funding, and the remaining amount from local sources.

*Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Generally*

The council is a cooperative planning and development unit for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the region as a Southern Maryland planning and development unit. Activities of the council include research, information management, and the preparation of a regional plan. All of the activities of the council are designed to assist federal, State, and county governments in better performing their respective duties.

**Local Expenditures:** The council advises that it has requested \$125,000 per county for its draft fiscal 2021 budget. The effect on expenditures for each county, if any, depends on whether, without the bill (1) existing funding commitments of \$94,200 per county would have been maintained or (2) the counties would have agreed to increase funding to \$125,000 at the request of the council.

Assuming that each county would have otherwise continued to contribute *at least* \$94,200 annually, consistent with current practice, expenditures for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties increase by up to \$30,800 per county annually beginning in fiscal 2021. To the extent that the counties would have otherwise contributed more than \$94,200, the effect on local expenditures is less – or none.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 805 (Charles County Senators) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Commerce; Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties; Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2020  
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