



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

July 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Alex Hirtle 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-046-2021 Stormwater Management Retrofit Program

CB-046-2021 (*proposed by:* Councilmember Glaros)

Assigned to Committee of the Whole (COW)

AN ACT CONCERNING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RETROFIT PROGRAM for the purpose of providing for a certain increase in certain residential lifetime rebate ceilings; providing for an increase in certain municipal stormwater management projects under certain conditions; providing for conservation landscaping; and generally relating to the Stormwater Management Retrofit Program.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Minimal additional expenditures for administrative costs and rebates.

Revenues: None likely.

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Indirect Impact:

Probably positive.

Legislative Summary:

CB-046-2021, sponsored by Council Member Glaros, was presented on June 15th, 2021 and was referred to the Council of the Whole (COW). The Bill would enhance a number of provisions of the County’s Stormwater Management Retrofit Program. It provides for certain increases in the residential lifetime rebate ceilings, provides for an increase in certain municipal stormwater management projects, provides for conservation landscaping, and generally relates to the County Stormwater management Retrofit Program.

Current Law/Background:

The County Council enacted CB-040-2012 (codified at § 32-201.02 and § 32-201.03 of the County Code) on September 17, 2012, which established the Stormwater Management Retrofit Program, authorizing rebates for specific types of projects to manage stormwater, including installing rain barrels, tree plantings, and installation of permeable pavement. The rebates had specific monetary caps on them, specific to residential properties as well as others, such as commercial, multi-family, homeowners associations, etc. A provision of the legislation stated that applicants would not be eligible for rebates if the project was located within a municipality that had a similar rebate program for stormwater management projects.

Resource Personnel:

Aimee Olivo, Chief of Staff, Councilmanic District 3

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The proposed legislation provides three changes in the current Stormwater Management Retrofit Program:

- It allows a resident of a municipality to partially utilize the County’s tree planting rebate program if that municipality caps their rebates at less than the County. The resident is only allowed the purchase and rebate of trees not addressed by the municipality, to avoid a resident from getting a full rebate from both jurisdictions.
- It raises the lifetime maximum rebate on a residential property from \$4,000 to \$6,000. The maximum rebate on properties such as commercial, multi-family, and others remains the same at \$20,000 per property.

- It includes *conservation landscaping* as a rebate option, at \$2/square foot, minimum project size being 100 square foot. This includes residential as well as all other types of properties.

The legislation essentially helps update the Stormwater Management Retrofit Program, which will be entering its ninth year in FY2022. The program has undergone some changes during this period, but has not kept up with resident requests specific to municipal tree planting rebate programs, lifetime maximum rebates for residential properties, and rebates for conservation landscaping. Conservation landscaping is the replacement of turf grass with vegetation that is native to a specific region.¹ It is especially important in managing stormwater because these types of landscapes reduce stormwater flow, and filter water more effectively during heavy precipitation events.²

As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of precipitation events in our County and the region, we will need to rely on smaller projects constructed by homeowners, businesses, non-profit and faith-based communities, and others to assist in controlling stormwater which has been a chronic problem in our jurisdiction for decades. The legislation helps strengthen the Stormwater Management Retrofit Program in providing financing for smaller projects as well as working with the County's municipal residents in maximizing their tree planting rebates and increase the jurisdiction's urban tree canopy.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-046-2021 will have an indefinite modest negative fiscal impact on the County by the increased amount of rebate funds it sends out for approved projects. The amount is indefinite due to not knowing the number of residents, business owners, churches, non-profits, and multi-family unit owners that will apply, but it is logical to estimate that the demand will rise given the increased incentives and increased monetary caps.

- *Indirect Impact*

Enactment of CB-046-2021 will likely have positive indirect fiscal impacts due to increased smaller projects that assists in managing stormwater. Managed stormwater is likely to decrease flooding damage, filter and clean water at increasing rates, which helps fish and other aquatic life.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

The Stormwater Management Retrofit Program is funded by the Stormwater Management District Fund through stormwater bonds, stormwater property fees, and other financial resources.

¹ [4.-Section-4.2-Conservation-Landscaping-w-Appendices.pdf \(chesapeakestormwater.net\)](#)

² IBID.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

This Act shall take effect forty-five (45) days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach me via phone or email.