

### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

**To:** Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council

**From:** Office of the County Auditor

**Date:** June 6, 2025

**Subject:** Auditor's Review of Legislation for the June 13, 2025 Council

Meeting

Bill 34-25: Tax Levies – Special Community Benefit Districts, Shore Erosion Control Districts, and Waterways Improvement Districts

#### **Summary of Legislation**

This bill seeks to levy and impose tax rates for all assessable property in the Special Community Benefit Districts (SCBDs), Shore Erosion Control Districts (SECDs), and Waterways Improvement Districts (WIDs) for the taxable year (FY26) beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

The updated tax rates included in this bill are expected to result in a \$660,300 increase in revenues over FY25 levels. This is due to an estimated \$603,900 (5.9%) increase in revenues from SCBDs, an estimated \$47,900 (10.1%) increase in revenues from SECDs, and an estimated \$8,500 (8.1%) increase from WIDs.

Bills 35-25, 36-25, 37-25, 38-25, 39-35, 40-25, & 41-25: Special Taxing Districts (combined)

#### **Summary of Legislation**

These bills seek to levy and impose special tax rates for seven Special Taxing Districts (STDs) for the taxable year (FY26) beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. This includes Arundel Gateway STD, Arundel Mills STD, Dorchester STD, National Business Park STD, National Business Park – North STD, Two Rivers STD, and Village South at Waugh Chapel STD.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

Arundel Gateway Special Taxing District and Dorchester Special Taxing District will experience increased tax rates for developed property by 38.2% and 3.0%, respectively, when compared to FY25. Two Rivers Special Taxing District will experience a

decrease in tax rates for developed property by 19.2% when compared to FY25. There are no tax rates for undeveloped properties for the aforementioned STDs.

#### Bill 42-25: Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Parking Lot and Garage Tax

#### **Summary of Legislation**

This bill seeks to raise the tax levied on the parking of a motor vehicle in a County parking lot or garage by 66.7% from \$0.60 to \$1.00 for each vehicle parked for a 24-hour period or a fraction of a 24-hour period. If the parking lot or garage charges on a weekly or monthly basis, the tax for computing the charge will increase from \$0.60 to \$1.00.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

The increase in the Parking Tax rate from \$0.60 to \$1.00 is estimated to generate an additional \$3.6 million in revenue in FY26, representing a 66.7% increase over FY25 revenue projections. The projected revenue in FY25 is \$5.4 million and the estimated revenue for FY26 is approximately \$9 million.

## Bill 43-25: Public Works – Utilities – Metered Water and Wastewater Charges

#### **Summary of Legislation**

This bill seeks to increase the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water usage to \$3.65 for water and \$6.42 for wastewater for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Proposed FY26 budget anticipates \$41.2 million in revenue from water usage charges and \$68.1 million from wastewater usage charges, representing respective increases of 7.9% and 9.9% over original FY25 estimates. These are conservative estimates and do not appear to take into account the most recent revenue estimates for FY25.

We estimate that this bill will result in increased revenues to the Water and Wastewater Operating Fund as follows:

- \$42.3 million in revenues from water usage fees, representing a \$2.3 million (5.8%) increase over the FY25 revised estimate of \$40 million.
- \$72 million in revenues from wastewater usage charges, representing a \$4 million (5.9%) increase over FY25 revised estimate of \$68 million.

# Bill 44-25: Public Works – Solid Waste Collection – Solid Waste Service Charge – Solid Waste Landfill and Facility

**Delivery Fees** 

#### **Summary of Legislation**

This bill seeks to increase the charge for solid waste curbside collection services by \$22 (5.5%) from \$404.00 to \$426.00 annually for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Proposed FY26 budget anticipates a revenue of \$73.6 million for solid waste service charges in FY26. This is a \$4 million increase from FY25.

#### Bill 46-25: Property Tax and Semiannual Payment Service Charge

#### **Summary of Legislation**

This bill sets the property tax rate for Anne Arundel County for FY26. The rates for the County, City of Annapolis, and Town of Highland Beach decrease, while the semiannual service charge increases.

#### **Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Proposed FY26 budget anticipates \$957.6 million in revenue from general property taxes in FY26. This is a \$29.1 million (3.1%) increase from the FY25 (revised) revenue estimate of \$928.5 million and a 4.0% increase from the FY25 (original) revenue estimate of \$920.4 million.