



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 434
SPONSOR: Representative Collins
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature of the Governor.
2. This Act requires the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to hold public hearings with the following requirements:
 - a. Allow for public in-person attendance and the opportunity to testify.
 - b. Allow the public to virtually attend and testify in addition to in-person attendance and testimony.
 - c. Allow all who wish to testify the opportunity to sign up at and during the public hearing.
 - d. Provide proper notice and schedule for no less than 2 hours of testimony.
 - e. Provide no limit to testimony unless the hearing officer determines that the number of persons wishing to testify is significant and necessitates a time limit with no person being limited to less than one minute of public testimony.
3. This Act expands upon the duties of DNREC by adding an in-person opportunity and additional requirements that expand hearing times for approximately 20 hearings per year. To implement the provisions of this Act, DNREC anticipates the need for the following:
 - a. Recurring Costs: \$200,576
 - i. Required overtime for DNREC staff for expanded hearing requirements of \$142,611 in Fiscal Year 2025 for 4 staff and 2 Natural Resource Police Officers including Other Employment Costs (OECs).
 - ii. \$57,965 Contractual costs for fleet vehicle, court reporter expenses, facility rental, and on-site technology support.
4. Future year personnel costs are assumed to increase at a rate of 2%.

Cost:

General Fund

Fiscal Year 2025:	\$200,576
Fiscal Year 2026:	\$203,428
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$206,337

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