

(c) (1) [Beginning with the 1997 Regular Session of the General Assembly, an] AN economic impact analysis rating and an economic impact analysis, as appropriate, shall be prepared by the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services for each bill that is introduced by a member of the General Assembly.

(2) A copy of the economic impact analysis rating and the economic impact analysis required under this subsection shall be submitted by the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services:

- (i) to the primary sponsor of the bill; and
- (ii) to the committee to which the bill is referred prior to the hearing on the bill.

(d) (1) If the appropriate Executive Branch agency or the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services determines that a bill will have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses, the agency or Department [of Fiscal Services] shall indicate that determination by a brief written statement.

(2) If the appropriate Executive Branch agency or the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services determines that a bill will have a meaningful economic impact on small businesses, the agency or Department [of Fiscal Services] shall develop a complete written economic impact analysis.

(3) (i) If the appropriate Executive Branch agency or the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services determines that a bill will have a meaningful economic impact on small businesses and is unable to provide a complete written economic impact analysis, the agency or Department [of Fiscal Services] shall provide a written explanation of why the agency determined that the bill will have a meaningful economic impact.

(ii) The explanation may identify the impact in general terms and need not quantify the specific economic impact.

(f) (1) The Executive Branch agency or the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services preparing the economic impact analysis rating and the economic impact analysis required under this section shall consult with, as appropriate:

- (i) other units of State government;
- (ii) units of local government; and
- (iii) business, trade, consumer, labor, and other groups impacted by or having an interest in the legislation.

(2) On request of the EXECUTIVE Director of the Department of [Fiscal] LEGISLATIVE Services, a unit of the State or a local government shall provide the Department [of Fiscal Services] with assistance or information in the preparation of an economic impact analysis rating and economic impact analysis.