

**Council Resolution 168-2025 Fiscal Analysis - REVISED**

**Introduced:** September 2, 2025

**Fiscal Manager:** Owen Kahn

**Legislative Intent:** This legislation terminates two easements on 59,574 square feet and 5,063 square feet to return the land for use by Fort Meade.

**ANALYSIS**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**This legislation will not have an impact on the County budget.**

Howard County acquired an easement on the Department of the Army's land in 2013 for the County Reclaimed Water Project. Fort Meade approached the County to provide reclaimed water for data centers used by the National Security Agency (NSA). Capital project [W8323-2013 Fort Meade Reclaimed Water](#) appropriated \$57 million for the construction of the Route 198 Reclaimed Water Pump Station. The pumping station was completed in 2015 at a final cost of \$31.8 million. County financials confirm the Fort Meade reimbursed the County directly for all capital costs of the project and bonds were never issued. Fort Meade has also reimbursed the County \$6.78 million for all operating costs since 2015, which included gas and electric bills and one Howard County employee on site six hours per week.

The reclaimed water was used on the Fort Meade base to cool NSA data centers. The Secretary of the Army is now requesting that Howard County's easement be terminated so that the Fort may resume administrative control.

**Budget Implications:**

- The Fort has already reimbursed the County for the capital project. The Fort has also reimbursed the County for all operating costs, with one remaining payment of \$140,642. The County will no longer be receiving future reimbursements but will also no longer be responsible for the costs.
- This legislation will not have an effect on the County budget and will only transfer the land and the pumping station to the administration of Fort Meade.

**Other Notes:**

- The property is located in Anne Arundel County.