

## NEWS

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## Leopold aims to cut impact fees

By **DANNY REITER**, PolitickerMD.com Reporter

Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold said Tuesday he will be submitting revisions to impact fee legislation currently pending in the county council.

The new proposal aims to temporarily cut a variety of fees certain developers are required to pay to the county government until 2010.

"In the current economic environment, we should help protect jobs and still ensure that developers pay their fare share to add infrastructure," Leopold said in a statement. "In some cases, impact fees will be reduced during an interim period before full implementation. Anne Arundel County has critical needs with regard to roads and schools, and failure to act will exacerbate billions of dollars of backlogs."

The revisions come at a time when state and local governments in Maryland are scurrying to find new ways to combat a steep budget shortfall. Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-Baltimore) will be proposing \$400 million worth of budget cuts at Wednesday's Board of Public Works meeting. The governor has made steep cuts already and is expected to continue with cuts until the state's fiscal situation is resolved.