

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 640 (Delegate Exum)
Economic Matters

Government Inspection of Business Entities - Copies of Reports

This bill requires a copy of a business entity inspection report to be automatically forwarded to the inspected business entity by the State or local government agency that conducted the inspection.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice for some State agencies, and its requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of any other State agency engaged in conducting such inspections.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice for some local governments, and its requirements can be handled with the existing resources of any other local government agency engaged in conducting such inspections.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) reports that, under the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) program, a copy of an inspection report is only sent to the business entity if there is a request under the Maryland Public Information Act. The business then pays \$.25 per page for the report. This bill would require MOSH to provide a copy of the inspection report whether or not hazards are found.

DLLR also believes that this bill would necessitate the hiring of a filing clerk and the expenditure of some additional operating expenses totaling approximately \$24,600 in fiscal 1997. However, Fiscal Services advises that the requirements of this bill can be handled by making one additional copy of an inspection report and sending it to the business entity. In 1995, a total of 2,000 inspections were performed by DLLR, and the average inspection

report was 20 pages.

Accordingly, though some additional expenditures for copying and postage may be required by DLLR to comply with the requirements of the bill, Fiscal Services believes that the impact is minimal and can be accommodated with DLLR's existing resources.

For other State agencies: the bill codifies existing practice, or its requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Information Source(s): City of Havre de Grace; Town of Indian Head; Town of Rising Sun; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (Division of Labor and Industry); Department of State Police; Department of Fiscal Services

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Analysis by: Guy Cherry

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710