

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 464 (Senator Madden, et al.)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Public Information - Reasonable Fee Guarantee**

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This bill limits the copying fees that State and local governments can charge for the reproduction of a public record to the actual cost of reproduction. In addition, the bill repeals current law permitting the Insurance Commissioner to charge a \$1 fee for copying documents on file in the Commissioner's office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal special fund revenue decrease as discussed below. Expenditures are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Most local governments already charge copying fees that comply with the proposed legislation, therefore any potential revenue loss is assumed to be minimal.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** The Maryland Insurance Administration advises that it collects approximately \$30,000 annually for copying documents. If the \$1 copy fee is repealed, the administration would still have the authority to charge a reasonable fee not exceeding the actual cost of reproduction. Accordingly, revenues would decrease by the difference generated from the current \$1 copy fee and the reasonable copy fee.

The Comptroller's Office advises that this bill will reduce copying revenues by \$1,500 annually. Currently, the Comptroller's Office charges a higher fee for requests that require editing to meet confidentiality requirements in certain tax documents.

Most State agencies report that this bill will not affect their revenues because either their copying fees are set in statute or "reasonable fees" that cover only reproduction costs are already charged.

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**Information Source(s):** Comptroller's Office, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Human Resources, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Insurance Administration, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Carroll County, Harford County, Queen Anne's County, St. Mary's County, Wicomico County, City of Greenbelt

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