

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 915 (Delegate Finifter, *et al.*)  
Judiciary

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**Crimes and Punishments - Penalty for Theft**

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This bill increases the maximum fine for felony theft from not more than \$1,000 to not more than \$50,000. The incarceration penalty remains the same.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase due to the change in the monetary penalty for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**Local Revenues:** Revenues could increase due to the change in the monetary penalty for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**Additional Comments:** For informational purposes, in fiscal 1996, 638 people were convicted of felony theft (common law grand larceny). Of these, 205 were sentenced to a prison term with an average sentence of 54 months (four and one half years), and 423 were placed on probation. Information is not available on the amount of any fines imposed and collected.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 1997

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