

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1381 (Delegate C. Davis)
 Commerce and Government Matters

911 Service - County Fee

This bill permits counties to raise the maximum additional charge for 911 service from 50 cents per month to \$1.00 per month.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential special fund revenue and expenditure increase of approximately \$25.5 million annually beginning in FY 2002. Later years reflect 1% annual growth.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
SF Revenue	\$25.5	\$25.8	\$26.0	\$26.3	\$26.5
SF Expenditure	25.5	25.8	26.0	26.3	26.5
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Increased reimbursement for 911 service.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In addition to the 911 fee of 10 cents, the counties may impose an additional charge of up to 50 cents. The charge is based on the carrier account and not by phone number. The additional fee is used to assist the counties in paying annual maintenance expenditures associated with the 911 system. The amount of the additional

charge may not exceed a level necessary to cover the total amount of eligible operation and maintenance costs of the county. The 911 fee and the additional charge are collected by the Comptroller of the Treasury and distributed by the Emergency Number Systems Board. Only three local jurisdictions (Baltimore City and Calvert and Queen Anne's counties) have a rate of less than the current 50 cent maximum. The distribution for counties of the additional charge is estimated at \$25.5 million for fiscal 2002.

State Fiscal Effect: If all counties double their current rate, an estimated \$25.5 million would be collected for the additional charge. According to the Maryland Association of Counties, based on its research it appears that the additional charge for most counties only reimburses 20% to 50% of the current annual operating costs. Later years reflect 1% annual growth.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced during the 2000 session as HB 1243, but was withdrawn.

Cross File: None

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission; Maryland Association of Counties; Montgomery, Prince George's, Harford, St. Mary's, and Carroll counties; Emergency Number Systems Board; Department of Legislative Services

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