

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 350

(Chair, Economic Matters Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - State Police)

Economic Matters

Finance

**Business Regulation - Outdoor Musical Festival Promoter License - Repeal of
Safety Permit Requirement**

This departmental bill eliminates a requirement that a promoter of outdoor music festivals obtain a safety permit from the Secretary of State Police. The bill instead requires that approval of an outdoor music festival be done by a local law enforcement unit and be based on the applicant's ability to provide the same safety arrangements currently required by the State Police for a safety permit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill provides minimal operational efficiencies for the Department of State Police (DSP).

Local Effect: The bill's safety consideration responsibilities for local law enforcement agencies can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: DSP has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: A promoter who wishes to have an outdoor music festival for which the patrons will be charged an admission fee is required to obtain a safety permit from DSP. The promoter is also required to obtain approval from the local law enforcement unit before receiving a health permit, which is a prerequisite to receiving a safety permit.

Both permits are required to obtain a license as a promoter; in addition an applicant has to pay a \$500 fee to the circuit court clerk. DSP is allowed to charge a safety permit fee of up to \$12 to cover the costs of securing records from a source other than DSP.

Background: According to DSP, there are fewer than three qualifying events per year for which the agency issues a safety permit for an outdoor music festival. To date, DSP has not charged a fee for issuing a safety permit for an outdoor music festival. Outside of this permit, such festivals are regulated at the local level where the promoter is licensed, bonded, and approved by a local law enforcement agency.

DSP believes that the safety permit requirement eliminated under this bill is unnecessary and duplicative of local regulation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2013
ncs/mcr

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Business Regulation – Outdoor Music Festivals – Repeal of Safety Permit

BILL NUMBER: HB 350

PREPARED BY: Maryland State Police

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.