

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 967  
Finance

(Senator Benson)

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**Business Regulation - Retail Service Stations - Video Cameras Required**

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This bill requires each retail service station dealer to (1) maintain at least one operational video camera on the exterior premises of the service station for the purpose of recording illegal activity and (2) preserve the recordings made by the video camera for at least 45 calendar days. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2014.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Comptroller can enforce compliance with the bill with existing budgeted resources. The bill's penalty provisions are not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. Retail service station dealers that do not already have an exterior operational video camera may incur costs to purchase, install, and maintain a video camera and to archive its recordings.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Retail service stations (*i.e.*, retail businesses where motor fuel is sold) must meet various registration, inspection, and signage requirements. Failure to comply with these provisions related to the inspection and sale of motor fuel is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and/or one year imprisonment.

Retail service stations are not required to maintain an operational video camera as specified in the bill.

**Background:** The Comptroller advises that there are currently 2,060 retail service stations in the State.

**Small Business Effect:** Security cameras and associated hardware and installation costs vary widely based on the type of camera and the data storage needs of the system. The lower range of prices for these systems begins at approximately \$1,000. Retail service station dealers not already in compliance with the bill incur an expense to purchase, install, and maintain the video camera and associated hardware.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1436 (Delegates Swain and Carter) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2013  
mc/mcr

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