

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 956 (Delegate Impallaria)
Economic Matters

Business Regulation - Motor Fuel Retail Service Station - Attendant Required

This bill requires a retail service station to have an attendant available to process cash payments from customers for the purchase of motor fuel during the retail service station's hours of operation. A violation of the bill is a misdemeanor, subject to existing penalties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Comptroller can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. The Comptroller anticipates a general operational impact, which may include drafting written notices to retail service stations and driving to certain stations to ensure they are in compliance. Imposition of existing penalty provisions is not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: Imposition of existing penalty provisions is not expected to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Retail service stations are generally small businesses, and they must comply with the bill. The Comptroller advises that many retail service stations are moving toward automated checkout and the bill may hinder their ability to do so.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: 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 have an attendant available to process cash payments from customers for the purchase of motor fuel during the retail service station's hours of operation.

There are approximately 2,400 retail service stations in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2017
mm/mcr

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