

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 451 (Somerset County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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**Somerset County - Violations of Ordinances - Infractions - Enforcement and  
Prosecution Authority**

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This enrolled bill provides for the enforcement and prosecution of Somerset County ordinances as infractions unless the violations are felonies or misdemeanors as defined by State law. The State's Attorney is authorized to prosecute an infraction. The county, however, may designate an attorney. A person charged in a citation may elect to stand trial for the infraction if a citation is served without a summons. A fine not exceeding \$1,000 may be imposed for each infraction. If the fine is not paid or the defendant fails to appear in the District Court, the county may double the fine to an amount not exceeding \$1,000. Any fines, penalties, or forfeitures collected by the District Court must be remitted to the county. If an individual is found guilty by the District Court, the person must pay all court costs.

The bill is effective July 1, 1996.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any increase in the number of cases heard in the District Court would be negligible and absorbable within existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Any increase in Somerset County revenues resulting from fines and penalties is assumed to be minimal. Similarly, it is not expected that many cases would be prosecuted by either the State's Attorney or a county attorney. Accordingly, county expenditures would not be affected.

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**Information Source(s):** Somerset County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 1996

ncs Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 1, 1996

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