

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 522 (Senator Dorman)
Finance

Trade Regulation - Gasohol and Gasoline Products Marketing Act

This bill requires a gasohol or gasoline products distributor to disclose the precise formula, method, and calculation used to establish the rent to be charged a dealer for the marketing premises, including the amounts used in those formulas, methods and calculations. Any provision of a marketing agreement that seeks to collect such a rent is void and unenforceable if the rent is not objectively fair and reasonable as determined by specified standards.

The bill provides that persons who prevail in actions brought to remedy violations of the Gasohol and Gasoline Products Marketing Act: (1) must be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and expert witness fees; and (2) if actual damages are awarded, are entitled to treble damages if the court finds that the violation was willful or that aggravating factors exist which warrant such an award so as to deter future violations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Attorney General (Antitrust Division), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1996

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