

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 95 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Ethics, State Commission on)
Commerce and Government Matters Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

Ethics Law - Enforcement - Limitation on Actions

This amended departmental bill provides that the State Ethics Commission may not take actions to impose a civil fine against violators of the Public Ethics Law unless the actions are taken within two years from the time the conduct ended. Current law does not clearly provide a statute of limitations for the commission to impose a civil fine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Although a two-year statute of limitations would decrease the potential for generating State revenues stemming from civil fines, only one court-imposed fine has been issued under the Ethics Law in its 17-year history because most civil cases under the law are settled out of court. Therefore, the bill is not likely to affect State revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The State Ethics Commission has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 1996
ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 11, 1996

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