

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 106(Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental - Health and Mental Hygiene)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

Confidential Records - Foodborne Outbreak Information

This amended departmental bill revises the definition of “confidential record” to allow for the release of certain information regarding foodborne disease outbreaks when the outbreak investigation has been completed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Staff time in excess of two hours can be recouped through a fee charged for searching for, preparing, or reproducing a public record.

Local Effect: None. Staff time in excess of two hours can be recouped through a fee charged for searching for, preparing, or reproducing a public record.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that this bill has a minimal impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment as discussed below. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene indicates that access to public information concerning foodborne outbreak can result in economic loss if an outbreak investigation documents inadequate food handling which results in a business being subject to litigation by patrons. The Department of Fiscal Services emphasizes that although the bill will have minimal impact on small business as a class, it could have a meaningful impact on any particular business that is sued for inadequate food handling.

The extent of the impact cannot be reliably estimated since it would depend on litigation

costs and awards in each case.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 1996
ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 12, 1996

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