

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 497 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Human Relations Commission)
Commerce and Government Matters

Maryland Human Relations Commission - Hearings - Relief

This departmental bill clarifies and alters procedures with regard to hearings and relief under the Human Relations Commission law, including expanding relief from employment discrimination to include compensatory damages and attorneys' and witness fees.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Increase in revenues as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: There would be an increase in general funds to the commission resulting from the awarding of attorneys' and witness fees. At most, revenues stemming from witness fees would increase by approximately \$6,500 a year. Revenues stemming from the awarding of attorneys' fees would increase by an indeterminate amount, depending on the amount of hours billed and the judge's ruling. Any increase in revenues would be used to offset existing litigation expenses (e.g., the cost of transcripts, filing fees, etc.) and costs associated with hiring witnesses, including travel and lodging expenses.

Information Source(s): Human Relations Commission

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1996

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Analysis by: LaTaunya D. Howard

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710