

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 57 (Senator Green)
Finance

Consumer Protection - Credit Card Holders Signature Protection

This bill prohibits the use, disclosure, or possession of a credit card holder's signature except under specific circumstances. Current law prohibits the use, disclosure, or possession of a person's credit card number or other payment device.

Violators are guilty of a felony and upon conviction are subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. Each prohibited use or disclosure constitutes an independent violation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: No effect. The District Court does not have jurisdiction to try a criminal case charging the commission of a felony.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed.

Persons serving a sentence longer than 12 months are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In

fiscal 1997 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,400.

Persons serving a sentence of 12 months or less are sentenced to a local detention facility. The State reimburses counties for part of their per diem rate after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 1997 are estimated to range from \$11 to \$50 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a state operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1997 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$22 to \$108 per inmate in fiscal 1997.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division),
Department of Fiscal Services

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