

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 687 (Senator Colburn)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Trees or Timber - Unlawful Cutting, Burning, Injuring, or Destroying - Penalties**

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This bill allows a person whose trees or timber have been illegally damaged or destroyed by another person to recover the costs of any surveys, appraisals, attorney fees, or court fees connected to the case in addition to all other existing recoverable damages.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in cost recovery revenues. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in cost recovery revenues to the extent that local governments pursue civil cases in these instances.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advises that it pursues approximately five or six such cases per year; routine survey and appraisal costs are \$5,000 but could range up to \$20,000. Revenues under this cost recovery legislation would be \$25,000 per year on average, but could be significantly higher in years when a complicated case is pursued.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 1996

ncs Revised - Updated Information - February 19, 1996

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