

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 439 (Chairman, Economic Matters Committee)
(Departmental - State Police)

Economic Matters Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Security Systems Technicians - Licensure

This enrolled departmental bill requires security system companies to execute a fidelity bond of at least \$50,000, subjects the program to the Program Evaluation Act (Sunset Review), and makes other minor modifications to the law regulating security systems technicians.

Unless reestablished through the Sunset Review process, the security systems technicians licensure program will terminate on September 31, 2001 [sic]. Under existing law, the termination date is September 30, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as described below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: A small business impact statement was not provided by the Department of State Police in time for inclusion in this fiscal note. A revised fiscal note will be issued when the department's assessment becomes available.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill makes several changes to the law regulating security systems technicians:

- requires a company to execute a fidelity bond of at least \$50,000 and provides for its use and termination;
- reduces from \$100,000 to \$5,000 the size of the blanket bond a company must execute;

- permits the State Police to use a portion of the application and renewal fee to pay for required criminal history records checks;
- allows the State Police to divulge information from the investigation of an applicant for a security systems technician license to other law enforcement officers; and
- permits the State Police to issue a card license instead of a certificate that must be posted in the licensee's office.

State Effect: Under current law the Department of State Police is required to deposit all license and renewal fees into the general fund. Because the department is required to conduct a State and national criminal history record check on applicants, the department has budgeted general funds which are paid to the Data Services Division of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for the record checks. The bill permits the State Police to use part of the license application fee to cover these costs. As a result, the State Police budget should reflect about \$63,000 less in general fund expenditures offset by about \$63,000 less in general fund revenue, assuming 1,500 record checks annually at \$42 per check. The net effect on the general fund is zero.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 1996
ncs Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 23, 1996

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