

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 849 (Delegate D. Davis)
Economic Matters

**Plumbing - Backflow Prevention Devices - Training and Examination Required -
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair of Devices**

This bill requires the owner of a building which is connected to a public water system and is required by law to have a backflow prevention device to test those devices in compliance with State plumbing codes and to overhaul each device at least once every five years. The supplier of water must notify the building owner of this requirement at least once every 24 months. The water supplier must be notified of any work completed on the backflow device and may take certain action if the device is deficient. Areas that are under the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission are exempt from these requirements.

Before a person can inspect, test, overhaul, or repair a backflow prevention device, that person must successfully complete a training program and pass a practical and written examination given by the State Board of Plumbing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues would increase by about \$50,000 in FY 1997. Future year revenues reflect the three-year recertification cycle and growth. General fund expenditures would increase by about \$51,700 in FY 1997. Future year expenditures reflect contractual services in the recertification years.

(in dollars)	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
GF Revenues	\$50,000	\$2,500	\$2,650	\$57,900	\$2,900
GF Expenditures	51,700	0	0	5,013	0
Net Effect	(\$1,700)	\$2,500	\$2,650	\$52,887	\$2,900

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures, as discussed below. **This bill**

imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) estimates that 1,000 individuals would complete a training program and pass a practical and written examination given by the State Board of Plumbing. If the examination fee is set at \$50, general fund revenues would increase by \$50,000 in fiscal 1997. These individuals must be recertified every three years. The revenue projections in the out-years reflect the three-year recertification cycle and growth at 5%.

State Expenditures: The State Board of Plumbing would require \$35,000 in fiscal 1997 to establish the certification program requirements and develop the practical and written examinations. In addition, DLLR would need one contractual employee for a period of nine months to handle the initial certification of 1,000 individuals. As a result, general fund expenditures would increase by \$51,728 in fiscal 1997. This figure includes salaries of \$11,888, fringe benefits, operating costs, and \$35,000 in contractual services.

Due to the three-year recertification requirement, DLLR would need a contractual employee for a period of three months in fiscal 2000 at a cost of about \$5,000.

State expenditures could also increase if the State employs any individuals who would need to meet the certification requirements established by this bill. The cost of the 32-hour training program would be about \$350. The Department of General Services is not aware of any employees who would need to meet these requirements.

In addition, State expenditures could increase to the extent that the State would need to inspect, repair, and overhaul backflow prevention devices in State owned facilities. However, since the State regularly inspects such devices at this time, it is estimated that any increase in expenditures would be minimal.

Local Expenditures: Local expenditures could increase if the local unit employs individuals who would need to meet the certification requirements established by the bill. In addition, local expenditures could increase to the extent that the local unit would need to inspect, repair, and overhaul backflow prevention devices in local owned facilities.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of General Services; Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1996

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