

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 459 (Senator Hafer, et al.)
Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

Desecration of Cemeteries

This enrolled bill alters the penalties for willful destruction, mutilation, or removal of any tomb, gravestone, or any other structure in a cemetery or ornamentation of a cemetery by increasing the maximum fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The bill also changes the definition of “victim” for restitution purposes to include the owner of a burial site and a relative of an individual buried in the burial site. It also expands the conditions under which a court may issue an order of restitution to include instances in which the victim’s property was damaged or destroyed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential revenue increase under the bill’s altered penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: Potential revenue increase under the bill’s altered penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill’s altered monetary criminal penalty provisions for misdemeanor cases heard in District Court. The extent of any revenue change would depend on the number of convictions and monetary penalties imposed.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill's altered monetary criminal penalty provisions for misdemeanor cases heard in the circuit courts. Any revenue increase would depend on the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 29, 1996
ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 1996
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 23, 1996

Analysis by: LaTaunya D. Howard
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710