

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 42 (Senator Trotter)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Zoning - Pawn Shops - Specific Identification

This bill prohibits the use of land and buildings for a pawn shop unless a jurisdiction's zoning ordinance specifically identifies a pawn shop as a permitted use for a zoning district. The bill only applies prospectively; it does not apply to any pawn shop in existence and permitted by a jurisdiction before the bill's effective date (October 1, 1997).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill would require local governments to amend their existing zoning code to permit the establishment of new pawn shops. However, any such costs associated with revising a jurisdiction's zoning code are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Placing restrictions on the location of pawn shops could prevent the start-up of new small businesses, thereby eliminating potential profits for store owners and the creation of new jobs. However, such restrictions could increase profits for existing pawn shops due to the potential reduction in competition from new businesses. The total impact on small businesses would depend upon the zoning actions of local governments and whether they would prohibit the establishments of new pawn shops.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Town of Indian Head, Kent County, Prince George's County, Town of Rising Sun, Washington County, Worcester County

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 1997

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