

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 742 (Senator Astle)
Finance

Motor Fuel Refiners and Suppliers - Promotional Games

This bill repeals the prohibition against a refiner or supplier of motor fuel to a retail service station from performing or participating in a promotional game of chance sponsored by the refiner or supplier. The bill provides that a refiner or supplier of motor fuel may offer a maximum of four games of chance a year; the maximum value of any individual prize awarded to a retail customer is \$5,000 and the maximum value of all prizes may not exceed \$100,000 annually. The bill also limits to \$75 the maximum fee that a service station must be required to pay to participate in a promotion.

The bill is effective June 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Allowing refiners and suppliers of motor fuel to offer games of chance to retail service stations could potentially affect small businesses. Retail service stations, many of which are small businesses, could realize increased revenues by participating in the games. The level of interest that may be generated cannot be reliably estimated. However, to the extent that retail service stations offer games of chance provided by motor fuel refiners or suppliers, service stations could realize increased revenues.

Information Source(s): Office of the Comptroller (Motor Fuel Tax), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1997

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