

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 123 (Delegate Bozman, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Referred to Budget and Taxation

Comptroller - Annual Grants - Great Pocomoke Fair

This amended bill requires the Comptroller to pay an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to the Great Pocomoke Fair, Inc. in fiscal 1998 and \$20,000 annually thereafter.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures would increase by \$30,000 in FY 1998 and by \$20,000 annually thereafter, with a corresponding decrease in general funds.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Surplus special fund revenues generated by the horse racing industry reverts to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. The amount reverted averaged \$2.0 million in fiscal 1995 and 1996 and is estimated at \$2.0 million for fiscal 1998. This bill would essentially redirect up to \$30,000 from the general fund to the Great Pocomoke Fair, Inc., in fiscal 1998, resulting in a net revenue decrease of \$30,000 to the general fund. The general fund loss in the out-years would be \$20,000.

The State Racing Commission would make this payment in January of 1998.

Small Business Effect: The Great Pocomoke Fair, Inc., will receive up to \$30,000 in fiscal 1998 and \$20,000 annually thereafter for constructing and maintaining new stalls, maintaining the track and for racing purses. Construction businesses would therefore benefit if the fair would not have otherwise contracted for these purposes. Additionally, owners of

harness racers could benefit through higher purses.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 14, 1997

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