

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 383 (Delegate Harkins, *et al.*)  
Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

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**Sport Shooting Ranges - Private Civil Nuisance Actions**

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This amended bill prohibits a person from bringing a private civil nuisance action for noise against the owner, operator, or user of a sport shooting range if the range was established as of the date the person acquired the property. A sport shooting range is considered to be a new establishment if there has been no shooting activity at the range for three consecutive years. The bill does not limit private nuisance suits against sport shooting ranges established on or after June 1, 1997. The bill may not be applied to any case filed before June 1, 1997, the effective date of the bill.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any decrease in the District Court's workload as a result of the restrictions on private civil nuisance actions would be negligible.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** There are approximately 50 sport shooting ranges in Maryland and the majority of these are assumed to be small businesses. This bill could have a meaningful impact on these shooting ranges by eliminating the legal costs associated with defending a private civil nuisance action and associated monetary judgements that could be imposed on such a business. It could also have a meaningful impact by allowing operators to continue to provide sport shooting services through the prevention of cases that would temporarily or permanently restrict or prevent business operations.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Natural Resources

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 14, 1997

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