

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 214 (Delegate M. Burns)  
Commerce and Government Matters

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**Employers - Prohibiting Campaign Contributions by Employees - Prohibition**

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This bill provides that an employer may not prohibit an employee from making a campaign contribution, or penalize or retaliate against an employee for making a campaign contribution. Violators are subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 and/or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill's incarceration penalty provision. Revenues would not be affected.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less are sentenced to a local detention facility. The State reimburses counties for part of the per diem rate after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 1998 are estimated to range from \$12 to \$42 per inmate, depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1998 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

**Small Business Effect:** In 1995 there were approximately 117,000 small businesses (50 or fewer employees) in Maryland. These businesses may experience an increase in costs if they are found guilty of prohibiting employees from making contributions or retaliating against employees for making contributions.

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**Information Source(s):** State Administrative Board of Election Laws, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 17, 1997  
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