

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 64 (Senator Hafer)
Judicial Proceedings

Evidence - Medical Malpractice - Trauma Surgery

This bill authorizes a court in a medical malpractice case involving trauma surgery to admit evidence which shows that the plaintiff was under the influence of alcohol or any controlled dangerous substance at the time of the surgery.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature. Any increase in the Judiciary's workload resulting from lengthier proceedings could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal effect as discussed below.

Fiscal Summary

Small Business Effect: Most trauma surgeons who would be affected by this bill would be employees of hospitals, which are not small businesses. To the extent that trauma surgeons, in private practice or as part of a doctors group, contract with a hospital to provide emergency room services, this bill would enable the surgeons to defend themselves more effectively in malpractice cases.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 1997

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