

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 36 (Delegate Fulton)  
Judiciary

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**Baltimore City - Removing, Damaging, or Abandoning Grocery Carts - Penalty**

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This bill increases, in Baltimore City only, the penalty for removing, damaging, or abandoning grocery carts. Current law provides for a maximum fine of \$25, which applies statewide. This bill subjects Baltimore City violators to a maximum \$200 fine for a first offense, and a maximum \$400 fine or up to 30 days imprisonment for a subsequent offense.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect on small businesses (grocery stores, stores, or markets) in Baltimore City as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** 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. Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's maximum 30 day incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. 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.

**Small Business Effect:** To the extent that the bill would have the effect of reducing the occurrences of grocery cart removal, damage, or abandonment, a minimal indeterminate

replacement savings could accrue to the operations of grocery stores, stores, or markets.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Baltimore City Detention Center), Department of Fiscal Services

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

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Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710