

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 209 (Delegate Stup, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Referred to Economic & Environmental Affairs

Regulation of Food Establishments - Excluded Organizations

This amended bill provides that an “excluded organization” may serve food to the public once a year for up to 14 consecutive days. This provision is in addition to current law which specifies that an excluded organization may serve food to the public no more than four times per week. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) regulates excluded organizations, which are generally charitable organizations, separately from other food establishments.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: Minimal effect on expenditures as discussed below.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: There would be no impact for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene because implementation would be carried out by local health departments.

Local Effect: Excluded organizations are not required to pay licensure fees and must meet less stringent State health standards than non-excluded organizations. It is assumed that the number of excluded organization inspections would remain the same or increase slightly and that the bill’s major effect will be to allow annual charity organization events to last a greater number of days. Local jurisdictions would experience only a minimal impact on expenditures, since excluded organizations generally represent a small proportion of the total

number of food inspections done by each jurisdiction.

Small Business Effect: Fire companies and nonprofit groups would be favorably affected because those organizations wishing to hold annual events in which food is served to the public could do so for up to 14 consecutive days, rather than the four consecutive days allowed under current law.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration), Montgomery County, Dorchester County, Anne Arundel County, Garrett County, Department of Fiscal Services

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