

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 89 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental - Ethics, State Commission on)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Ethics Law - Enforcement - Limitation on Actions

This departmental bill provides that the State Ethics Commission may not take action to impose a civil fine against a violator of the Ethics Law unless the action is taken within four years from the time the conduct ended. Current law does not clearly provide a statute of limitations for the commission to impose a civil fine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Although a four-year statute of limitations would decrease the potential for generating State revenues stemming from civil fines, only one court-imposed fine has been issued under the Public Ethics Law in its 17-year history. Most civil cases under the law are settled out of court. Therefore, the bill is not likely to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The State Ethics Commission has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small businesses (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 1997

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