

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 149 (Senator Madden)
Finance

Guide Dog Trainers - Access to Facilities Open to Public

This bill provides that an individual in the process of training a guide dog for use by the visually or hearing impaired must be allowed full access to facilities open to the public. The guide dog trainer must not be required to pay an extra charge for this access. However, the trainer may be held liable for any damage the dog causes to the facility.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues as discussed below. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that enforcement by local law enforcement agencies can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not have a meaningful impact on the operations or finances of small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Current law provides that a fine, not exceeding \$500, be imposed on any individual who interferes with visually or hearing impaired persons and their full access to public facilities. Revenues could increase by an indeterminate amount if the bill's intent is to extend this monetary penalty provision to guide dog trainers and their access to public facilities. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal. Expenditures would not be affected as enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 16, 1997

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