

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 669 (Senator Baker)
Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Environmental Matters

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program - Alteration of Deadlines and Other Dates

This amended bill changes the dates by which owners of “affected” properties under the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program must: register with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), satisfy the risk reduction standards for lead paint, distribute to tenants information packets on lead poisoning, and pay annual fees. In general, these dates are pushed back by one to two years. The bill also changes the date by which authorized insurers had to waive any lead hazard coverage exclusion to the extent of a qualified offer made or to be made.

The bill is effective June 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: This bill adjusts the dates relevant to the law establishing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (Chapter 114 of 1994) in accordance with regulations adopted during 1996. These date changes will not impact fee collection, which was already adjusted under Chapter 555 of 1996. Therefore, revenues would not be impacted.

Small Business Effect: The date adjustments made in this legislation are in accordance with

regulations adopted by the department. Under these revised dates, property owners would have increased time-frames to meet risk reduction standards. This will decrease short-term costs for these landowners; in addition, the number of contractors available for such work could potentially increase over time, thus possibly reducing costs through competition.

There are an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 properties, which are assumed to comprise about 200,000 units, in MDE's registry of "affected properties". It should be noted that a large number of properties that could potentially be affected are not currently registered.

The revised time-frames would also affect those businesses in the cleanup industry. There are 118 certified lead paint inspectors, 219 certified abatement contractors, and 11 certified training inspectors in the State, almost all of which are small businesses. Abatement can cost up to \$20,000 per housing unit.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1997

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