

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 620 (Delegate Genn. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Crimes - Possession of Vehicle Identification Numbers

This bill prohibits the possession or sale of stolen manufacturer's serial numbers or vehicle identification plates or labels. The bill also prohibits the possession of such items with the intent that they be affixed to stolen property or used for fraudulent intent.

The bill also increases existing misdemeanor penalty provisions applicable to related infractions involving manufacturer's serial numbers by increasing the maximum fine from \$300 to \$500, and increasing the maximum imprisonment from one year to 18 months. Violators of the provisions of this bill cited above are also subject to the same penalties.

This bill is effective July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions. Enforcement can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Police.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase under the bill's application of an increased monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's application of an increased incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1999 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less are sentenced to a local detention facility. The State reimburses counties for part of their per diem rate after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 1999 are estimated to range from \$12 to \$42 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced to such a term in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in a DOC facility, with an average monthly cost estimated at \$1,500 for fiscal 1999. [The Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility, is used primarily for pretrial detentions. The per diem cost for BCDC in fiscal 1999 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.]

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill's application of an increased monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's application of an increased incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1999. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

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