

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 562 (Delegates Turner and Montague)

Judiciary

Lawyers - Solicitation of Clients - Limited Prohibition on Targeted Communications

This bill provides that the statute prohibiting lawyers from sending written communications to prospective clients prior to 30 days after the accident or disaster that gives rise to the prospective representation applies to the sending of audio recordings, computer on-line transmissions, facsimile transmissions, telegraphic transmissions, telephonic transmissions, and video recordings as well as letters and other written communications. The bill also repeals the requirement that attorneys wait at least 30 days before sending written communications to prospective clients in criminal and traffic matters.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical in nature and is not expected to measurably affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: This bill would allow lawyers to directly solicit potential criminal and traffic clients within 30 days after charges are filed. Any small law firms that choose to do so, or hire an agent to do so on their behalf, and obtain additional clients would benefit financially from this bill.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - February 10, 1998

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