

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 412 (Senator Bromwell)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Consumer Protection - Drug Storage and Shipment Safety Act

This bill requires a pharmacy permit holder that mails or ships prescription drugs to patients in the State, including a nonresident pharmacy permit holder, to provide in each shipment of a prescription drug: (1) general written notice that alerts a consumer that a medication's effectiveness may be affected by exposure to extremes of heat, cold, and humidity; and (2) a toll-free or local consumer access telephone number that a consumer may use during regular hours of operation to ask questions relating to medications. The bill applies to mail-order prescription drugs if the drugs are not personally hand delivered directly to a patient or the patient's agent at the residence of the patient or at another location designated by the patient.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in special fund revenues from penalties resulting from a violation of the bill. Any additional workload for the State Board of Pharmacy could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Additional Comments: Currently, non-resident pharmacies are required to maintain a toll-free information line for customers.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Pharmacy, Laboratories Administration-Division of Drug Control); Department of Legislative

Services

Fiscal Note History:

lc

First Reader - February 24, 1998

Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 1998

Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 1998

Analysis by: Lina Walker

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710