

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 553 (Delegate Morgan)

Economic Matters

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**Commercial Businesses - Signs with Broken Lights**

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This bill requires any commercial business with a permit for a lighted sign visible from the outside of the business to replace a broken light within two weeks after the light is broken. Violators are subject to a fine of \$10 per sign for each day the light remains broken.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in revenues due to the fine provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Expenditures would not be affected, as monitoring and enforcement of commercial businesses could be handled with existing resources of local governments. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal impact on small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** To the extent that commercial businesses do not comply with the requirement of fixing broken signs in a timely fashion, State revenues could increase by a minimal amount depending on how aggressively the fine provision of this bill is enforced by local governments.

**Local Effect:** Building standards enforcement personnel regulate commercial businesses. However, since these inspectors normally work during the day and broken signs would be more visible at night, it is assumed that enforcement of the bill's requirements would be handled by local law enforcement personnel. Prince George's County advises that the bill is not clear on whether a burned out light constitutes a broken light or who is responsible for enforcement.

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**Information Source(s):** Town of Thurmont, Garrett County, Prince George's County

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 1998

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