

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 955 (Delegates Preis and Harkins)  
Economic Matters

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**Charitable Solicitations - Fire Organization Solicitors**

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This bill requires a “fire organization solicitor” and the solicitor’s associates to register with the Secretary of State before fund raising on behalf of an ambulance, fire fighting, or rescue organization. The bill also requires the solicitor to post a bond or obtain an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$25,000. A fire organization solicitor is a person who for pay solicits or receives contributions for an ambulance, fire fighting, or rescue organization, personally or through an associate solicitor. A person who willfully violates the registration or bonding provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to the current law penalties, a fine up to \$5,000 or imprisonment up to one year, or both.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues would increase by \$300 for each fire organization solicitor registered. The Secretary of State could monitor any new registrants with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** General fund revenues would increase by \$300 annually for each additional fire organization solicitor registered. At this time, the number of additional solicitors that would be registered is unknown, although the Secretary of State's Charitable Organizations Division advises that it is aware of at least five solicitors who would be required to register under the bill. For informational purposes, in 1997, 36 professional solicitors were registered with the Secretary of State.

The expanded applicability of the criminal penalty provisions would not significantly affect State revenues or expenditures.

**Local Effect:** The expanded applicability of the criminal penalty provisions under this bill are not expected to significantly affect local revenues or expenditures.

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**Information Source(s):** Secretary of State (Charitable Organizations Division)

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 1998

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Revised - House Third Reader - April 6, 1998

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