

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 236 (Delegate Hubbard. *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Consumer Protection - Manufacturers' Rebates

This bill prohibits a merchant from advertising a price for consumer goods that requires a consumer to mail in a manufacturer's coupon for a cash rebate, unless the actual price paid by the consumer to the merchant before the rebate is clearly and conspicuously advertised along with the final price after the rebate.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 complaints per year as a result of this bill, any additional workload could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none. Requiring merchants to advertise the before rebate price and the after rebate price should not affect consumer demand. Any additional costs to small businesses associated with altering their price advertising policies would be minimal.

Information Source: Attorney General's Office (Consumer Protection Division)

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 1998

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