

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 266 (Delegate Doorv. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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**Handguns - Child Resistance Standards**

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This bill requires that handguns sold after October 1, 2000 meet specified State standards for child resistance. The Superintendent of State Police must adopt regulations to implement and enforce these standards by July 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate effect on general fund revenues. Any costs associated with the adoption of child resistance standards could be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Police.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potentially meaningful effect on small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** There are 363 registered gun dealers in the State. In fiscal 1997 there were 30,161 handgun sales in the State. Handguns are not currently manufactured with such child resistance features required by this bill.

**State Revenues:** Any potential effect of this bill on the State, including a possible decline in State sales tax revenues, depends on whether handgun manufacturers choose to modify existing manufacturing standards to meet Maryland's new child resistance sales standards by October 1, 2000. Therefore, since the effect of this bill on the manufacture of handguns is unknown, it is not possible to reliably predict the effect of this bill on handgun sales in the State.

**Small Business Effect:** Handguns are not currently manufactured with such child resistance

features required by the bill. If manufacturers choose to modify existing manufacturing standards to meet Maryland's new sales standards by October 1, 2000, the 363 registered gun dealers in the State would be minimally impacted. To the extent that the child resistance features increase the cost and price of handguns, there could be some loss of sales due to higher prices. Alternatively, if manufacturers do not alter their standards to meet the requirements of the bill. State gun dealers could experience a significant loss of sales.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 1998  
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