

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1126 (Delegate Valderrama)

Judiciary

Regulated Firearms - Interstate Importing - Prohibited

This bill, with specified exceptions, prohibits the importation of regulated firearms into the State. The bill applies current law maximum penalties of a fine of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for five years to the illegal transport of regulated firearms.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures due to the application of the incarceration penalty provision. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in revenues due to the application of the bill's monetary penalty provision.

Small Business Effect: Indeterminate. The extent to which a prohibition against the importation of regulated firearms could increase the in-state sales of such weapons cannot be reliably determined. Any potential losses to dealers arising from eliminating the "processing" of weapons from out-of-state sales is unknown.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the current law incarceration penalty being applied to the bill's prohibition against importation of firearms. As a result, more people could be committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility. The realization of any actual increases would depend upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1999 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under application of the current law monetary penalty provision since these cases would be heard in the circuit courts. The realization of

any actual increases would depend upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1998

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