

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 797 (Senator Conway)

Finance

Consumer Protection - Restocking Fees

This emergency bill prohibits merchants from charging a consumer who returns merchandise purchased from the merchant a restocking or return fee that exceeds: (1) 10% of the purchase price of the merchandise, if the purchase price of the merchandise is less than or equal to \$1,000; or (2) \$100, if the purchase price of the merchandise is greater than \$1,000.

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 handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal effect. To the extent that small businesses currently charge restocking or return fees, this bill could negatively affect their revenues.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 20, 1998

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