

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 750 (Delegate Montague. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Courts - Settlements and Releases - Limited Prohibitions

This bill provides that a person whose interest is or may become adverse to a prospective claimant may not communicate, directly or through an agent, to a prospective claimant about an accident or disaster involving the prospective claimant or the prospective claimant's relative, unless the accident or disaster occurred more than 30 days before the date the communication is sent. Communications made at the request of the prospective claimant are exempt. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000, maximum imprisonment of 1 year, or both.

The bill also strengthens restrictions relating to communications with an injured individual who is confined to a hospital or sanitarium.

The bill applies prospectively only.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None. The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department

of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - February 25, 1999

dmm/jr

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