

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1160 (Delegate Barve. *et al.*)

Economic Matters

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**Consumer Protection - Promotional Offerings Included With a Sale of Goods or  
Services - Notice and Acceptance Requirements**

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This bill generally relates to promotional offerings included with a sale of goods or services. The term “promotional offering” means any consumer goods or service that is offered free to a consumer for a limited time but after which the consumer must pay to keep or maintain the goods or service.

The bill prohibits a merchant from including a promotional offering as part of a sale of goods or services unless the merchant provides the consumer with a written description of the terms and conditions of the promotional offering and a form that requires the consumer to expressly accept or reject the promotional offering in writing. The bill provides that the terms of a promotional offering may not be enforced unless a consumer has expressly accepted the offering in writing. The bill applies prospectively.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 complaints as a result of this bill, any additional workload to the division could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Information Source:** Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legislative

Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - March 17, 1999

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Analysis by: Jo Ellan Jordan

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510