

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 571 (Senator Middleton)

Judicial Proceedings

Grain Dealers Licensing - Civil Penalties

This bill authorizes the Maryland Department of Agriculture to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 instead of or in addition to the suspension or revocation of a license for violations of the Grain Dealers Law. Penalties collected are to be paid into the department's Administrative Fund. The department must adopt regulations to implement this penalty.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in special fund revenue.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Maryland Department of Agriculture reports that there are 70 licensed grain dealers operating in compliance with the law. In addition, there are 30 grain dealers operating without licenses or are otherwise in violation of the law who could be subject to the bill's \$5,000 civil penalty. However, it is expected that the majority of these businesses will come into compliance with the law rather than pay civil penalties. Any fines collected are to be paid into the Administrative Fund to cover the administrative costs of the grain dealer program.

Small Business Effect: Of the 30 grain dealers that are not in compliance with the law, 20 are small businesses that may be subject to the bill's \$5,000 civil penalty.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 1999

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