

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 215 (Delegates Doorv and Dembrow)

Judiciary

Dogs - Poisoning or Ground Glass - Penalties

This bill increases the misdemeanor penalties for willfully and maliciously administering or exposing a poisonous substance or ground glass, under certain circumstances, to a dog. The bill increases the maximum penalty from a fine of \$100 to a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 60 days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's monetary penalty provisions since these cases would be heard in the District Court.

State Expenditures: Persons sentenced to a term of one year or less in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in a Division of Correction (DOC) facility. Currently, the DOC average total cost per inmate, including overhead, is estimated at \$1,600 per month. This bill alone, however, should not create the need for additional beds, personnel, or facilities. The average variable cost of housing a new DOC inmate (food, medical care, etc.), excluding overhead, is \$275 per month. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is

expected to be minimal.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty. Persons serving a sentence of one year or less in a jurisdiction other than Baltimore City are sentenced to a local detention facility. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$15 to \$80 per inmate in fiscal 2000.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1999

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