

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 237 (Senator Kasemever)

Finance

Automatic Garage Door Openers - Servicing - Home Inspections

This bill requires a person who installs, services, or repairs an automatic garage door opening system in a residential dwelling unit to conduct an on-site reversal test of the system by placing a rigid 2 inch high obstacle or a 2 inch by 4 inch block of wood on the surface beneath the garage door and closing the garage door with the block underneath. In order to pass the test, the system must reverse the door upon contact with the obstacle or block within 2 seconds. A person may not service or repair a garage door system that fails the test, and the person who conducted the test must attach a warning label to the garage door and notify the resident in writing within 10 days that the garage door system does not comply with current safety standards. Violators are guilty of an unfair or deceptive trade practice.

The bill also requires home inspectors to conduct an on-site reversal test of a garage door system during a home inspection. If the system fails the test, the home inspector must notify the purchaser of the property that the system is dangerous and should be disconnected.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 complaints each year as a result of this bill, any additional workload could be handled with existing resources. Any cost recovery by the Attorney General resulting from actions brought under the unfair and deceptive trade practices provision cannot be quantified beforehand.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The bill requires home inspectors as well as persons who install or repair garage door openers to conduct an on-site reversal test. If the garage door

fails the test, a person could not make repairs and would be required to affix a warning label to the door and notify the owner. To the extent that small firms currently repair garage doors that would fail the on-site reversal test required by this bill, business would decline.

Information Sources: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Attorney General's Office

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1999

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