

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 257 (Senator Green. *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Task Force to Study the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Money to the State of Maryland

This bill establishes a 17-member Task Force to Study the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Money to the State of Maryland.

The bill is effective July 1, 1999, and a final report of the task force is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: The 17-member task force created by the bill is required to: (1) examine the various options available to the State for appropriately using revenues it will receive from the tobacco litigation settlement; (2) hold at least 5 public hearings in the main geographic regions of the State, including Western Maryland, Eastern Shore, Baltimore Metropolitan Area, Southern Maryland, and Suburban Washington D.C., to solicit public opinion regarding appropriate ways to use the revenues the State will receive from the tobacco litigation settlement; (3) collect data to determine how other states plan to utilize any revenues received from the tobacco litigation settlement; (4) study the actual impact on State and local programs that would benefit from a portion of the revenues the State will receive from the

tobacco litigation settlement; and (5) take any other action necessary and proper to carry out the purpose of the task force.

The Governor's Office and the Department of Legislative Services will staff the task force. **State Expenditures:** It is assumed that members would be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. Any expenditures would depend upon the time, location, and frequency of task force meetings. Expenses are assumed to be minimal and able to be handled with existing resources of the government entities represented on the task force. In addition, staff assistance could be provided with existing personnel.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 1999

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