

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 469 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Agriculture)

Environmental Matters

State Tobacco Authority - Regulatory Powers

This departmental bill authorizes the Maryland Tobacco Authority to impose a penalty of up to \$5,000, in lieu of or in addition to suspending or revoking a license, for violating the laws and regulations pertaining to the sale of leaf tobacco. The bill also requires sellers of leaf tobacco to keep records as required by the authority and authorizes the authority to inspect those records at any reasonable time. The bill also authorizes the Tobacco Authority to order any lot of tobacco off-sale that is found to be in violation of the laws and regulations pertaining to the sale of leaf tobacco. Finally, the bill authorizes the authority to bring an injunction against any person for violating the regulations established by the authority.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Agriculture has determined that this bill has a meaningful impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The Maryland Tobacco Authority is responsible for regulating the sale of leaf

tobacco in Maryland for the purpose of maintaining an orderly market. Currently, the authority's primary means of enforcing compliance with law and regulation is to revoke or suspend the license of a violator.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase depending on the number and amount of fines levied by the Maryland Tobacco Authority. However, any increase is assumed to be minimal.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1999

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