

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 29 (Chairman, Finance Committee)
(Departmental - Labor, Licensing, and Regulation)

Finance

Cemeteries - Renewal of Permits

This departmental bill authorizes the Office of Cemetery Oversight to renew permits issued to businesses that operate cemeteries and burial goods businesses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Office of Cemetery Oversight, established in 1997, issues registrations to cemetery operators and sellers, and issues permits to businesses that operate cemeteries and burial goods businesses. However, the language of the Maryland Cemetery Act explicitly provides for the renewal of registrations, but not for permits.

The biannual renewal fee for permits has already been set by the Office of Cemetery Oversight at \$100. A regulation setting this fee took effect December 28, 1998. Assuming 3 publically held companies owning 10 cemeteries each, 20 independent cemeteries, and 25 monument companies, the \$100 permit renewal fee will generate approximately \$7,500

biannually. The Office of Cemetery Oversight has also set a \$3 fee per sales contract that would generate approximately \$168,000 biannually beginning in 2001.

The bill, however, would not increase the board's projected revenues because payment of these fees were assumed in the fiscal estimate for the legislation that established the Office of Cemetery Oversight (Chapter 675 of 1997). To date, no permits are yet up for renewal.

Information Sources: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 1999

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