

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 792 (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 full roll of paper towels on the surface beneath the garage door and closing the garage door with the roll underneath. In order to pass the test, the system must reverse the door upon contact with the obstacle or block within two 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 ten days that the garage door system does not comply with current safety standards. Violators are subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation.

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: The Consumer Protection Division expects to receive fewer than 50 complaints each year as a result of this bill. Any additional workload could be handled with existing resources. Any fine revenues from the imposition of civil penalties are assumed to be minimal.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A substantially similar bill, SB 237, was introduced in 1999 and received an unfavorable report by the Senate Finance Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Attorney General's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2000

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