

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 812 (Senator Collins) (Baltimore County Administration) and
(Senator McFadden) (Baltimore City Administration)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers - Records - Digital
Images**

This bill applies to Baltimore City and Anne Arundel and Baltimore County pawnbrokers and secondhand store merchants. It requires each such merchant that has more than 120 business transactions a year to take a digital color photograph of each customer that pawns or pledges certain valuable items as defined in current law. The merchant must also take a digital color photograph of each item involved in the business transaction. The bill allows the merchants to use an instant camera until September 30, 2000. These photographs must become part of the merchants' records.

The merchants must submit these photographs, via modem, to the primary law enforcement unit and, if applicable, to any local law enforcement unit after the close of business each day. During the time it is allowed, any merchant using an instant camera may mail or deliver the photographs.

The bill further requires the applicable police departments to provide the necessary communications software to the merchants.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: The total cost of the necessary software is estimated at \$50,000. It is assumed that this will be evenly divided among the three jurisdictions involved, resulting in a \$16,700 expenditure for each in FY 2001.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: All pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers in the State are required to keep detailed written records of transactions involving valuable items, as defined in the law. They submit these records to the appropriate law enforcement agency at the end of each business day. These records are kept on a State-provided form and each item is tagged with a tracking number.

Small Business Effect: Some merchants will probably have to buy a computer, modem, and/or digital camera by September 30, 2000. Computer equipment costs approximately \$1,000 and a digital camera costs about \$550.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Baltimore City; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2000
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Analysis by: Brian D. Baugus

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510