

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 924 (Delegate Redmer. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Courts - Statute of Limitations - Water Pollution Violations

This bill provides that a prosecution for a violation of specified water pollution provisions must be instituted within two years after the offense was committed. The bill is to be construed prospectively only and may not be applied to any water pollution violation committed before the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The extent to which the change in the statute of limitations will result in additional violators prosecuted over time is unknown; however, the bill is not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The extent to which the change in the statute of limitations will result in additional violators prosecuted over time is unknown; however, the bill is not expected to significantly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Except as otherwise specified, a prosecution for a misdemeanor must be instituted within one year of the offense. Criminal violations of affected water pollution provisions are considered misdemeanors. Penalties range from a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding six months or both, to a fine of \$50,000 for each day of violation or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court), Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2000

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