

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 305 (Senator Baker)

Judicial Proceedings

**Law Enforcement - Interception of Communications - Evidence of Regulated
Firearms Offenses**

This bill authorizes an investigative or law enforcement officer, or specified persons acting at the prior direction and under the supervision of such an officer in a criminal investigation, to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication in order to provide evidence of the commission of offenses relating to the unlawful sale, purchase, transfer, or possession of regulated firearms.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. The extent to which this bill could result in additional “wire taps” or other interceptions of communications is unknown. Likewise, the extent that such information legally obtained could result in a greater number of criminal convictions relating to firearm offenses is also unknown. In any event, however, this bill is not expected to significantly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Minimal. The extent to which this bill could result in additional “wire taps” or other interceptions of communications is unknown. Likewise, the extent that such information legally obtained could result in a greater number of criminal convictions relating to firearm offenses is also unknown. In any event, however, this bill is not expected to significantly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Interception of such communications are lawful in order to provide evidence of a variety of specified crimes, including murder, kidnapping, rape, and fraudulent insurance acts, and in certain hostage situations. Chapter 524 of 1998 added child pornography to this list of offenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 673 (Delegate Vallario, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Office of State's Attorneys' Coordinator, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2000
drg/jr

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