

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1137 (Delegate Giannetti)

Environmental Matters

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**Railroads - At-Grade Highway Crossings - Safety Equipment**

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This bill provides that at each at-grade railroad crossing of a class 1 railroad across a public highway, the railroad company must erect a system of flashing lights, alarm bells, and safety gates. A railroad company that does not comply with the bill's requirements is subject to a fine of \$100 per day for each day that the company is not in compliance.

The State's Attorney of the county must prosecute violators in circuit court.

"Class 1 railroad" is not defined.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in revenues due to the bill's penalty provision.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** County governing bodies determine whether it is necessary for a railroad company to erect warning equipment or safety gates at a railroad crossing. Railroad companies that do not comply with the requirements of a county are subject to a fine of \$25 per day. The State's Attorney of a county prosecutes violators in circuit court when the county governing body so directs.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Counties could receive additional fine revenue as a result of the bill from non-complying railroad companies. Any additional fine revenue is not expected to be

significant. The bill is not expected to add significantly to the workload of State's Attorneys' offices or the circuit courts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Public Service Commission, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2000  
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