

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1048 (Delegate Malone, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Criminal Law - Dogfighting - Penalties

This bill increases, from \$5,000 to \$20,000 the maximum monetary penalty for persons convicted of animal “mutilation” by using or permitting a dog to be used in or arranging or conducting a dog fight. Current law incarceration penalties are not altered.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues could increase minimally due to the bill’s increased monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Revenues could increase minimally due to the bill’s increased monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 448 of 1999 established the existing misdemeanor prohibitions against animal “cruelty” and “mutilation” which extend to the prohibited acts relating to dogfighting cited in this bill. Cruelty violations subject an offender to maximum penalties of a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 90 days. A court may order violators of the animal cruelty prohibition to participate in psychological counseling. Mutilation violations subject an offender to maximum penalties of a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for three years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2000
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