

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 18 (Senator Green)

Finance

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**Telephone Solicitation - Caller Identification Blocking**

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This bill prohibits a person engaged in “telephone solicitation” from blocking or otherwise preventing or controlling the transmission of information that identifies the solicitor to the recipient of the call. Violators are subject to a fine of \$1,000 for a first offense and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense. The bill exempts persons who have a preexisting relationship with the call recipient and units of federal, state, or local government.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The use of automated dialing, push button, or tone-activated address signaling systems with prerecorded messages for telephone solicitation is prohibited. The law does not prohibit telephone solicitors from blocking caller I.D. or other means of identifying the solicitor.

**Background:** Of the neighboring jurisdictions surveyed, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, none has enacted legislation prohibiting telephone solicitors from blocking caller I.D.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court.

**Local Revenues:** Revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the circuit courts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General, Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2000  
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