

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 428 (Senator Harris. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Ethics Law - Disclosure of Gifts

This bill repeals provisions of the ethics law applicable to State and public officials that exempt certain types of gifts from disclosure requirements, and requires disclosure of each gift of any kind, other than a trivial gift of informational value.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the ethics law, disclosure statements must include a schedule of gifts received. The schedule must include each gift with a value of more than \$20 and each of two or more gifts with a cumulative value of \$100 or more received from one entity during the applicable period. A disclosure statement need not include as gifts certain food and beverages, or certain tickets to charitable, cultural, or political events.

State Fiscal Effect: The State Ethics Commission could handle any additional paperwork resulting from the bill using existing budgeted resources. Future enforcement costs resulting from the bill's requirements cannot be reliably estimated, but it is expected that the Ethics Commission could handle any such enforcement using existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2000
nlr/jr

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