

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 60 (Delegate Owings)
Commerce and Government Matters

Election Laws - Voter Registration Lists - Penalties for Prohibited Uses

This bill alters the criminal penalty, to a maximum fine of \$5,000, for individuals who knowingly allow a voter registration list under their control to be used for commercial solicitation or any other purpose not related to the electoral process.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: While the bill increases the penalty for misusing a voter registration list, revenues are not likely to be affected since no one has ever been charged or convicted of this offense.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Individuals convicted of knowingly allowing a voter registration list under their control to be used for commercial solicitation or any other purpose not related to the electoral process are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine in the amount of \$10 to \$250 or imprisonment for a period of 30 days to 6 months, or both.

Background: The Office of the State Prosecutor, which handles violations of State election law, advises that no one is currently charged with misusing a voter registration list. In addition, the State Board of Elections advises that no one has ever been convicted of misusing a voter registration list.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, State Prosecutor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 29, 2001
jm/hlb

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