

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 581 (Delegate Bobo, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Finance

Telephone Solicitation - Caller Identification Blocking

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 units of federal, state, or local government.

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.

Analysis

Current Law: The use of automated dialing, push button, or tone-activated address signaling systems with prerecorded messages for telephone solicitation is prohibited. No provision prohibits 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced in the 2000 session as SB 18. SB 18 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

Cross File: SB 79 (Senator Green) – Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 12, 2001
cm/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 22, 2001

Analysis by: Ryan Wilson

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510