

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1418

(Delegates Mitchell and Love)

Economic Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Docking Masters

This emergency bill expands the State Board of Docking Masters to seven members by adding a member of the maritime industry and a licensed docking master. The bill also prohibits a licensed docking master from having an ownership or a financial interest in a tugboat company (except for holding stock in a publicly traded company that owns tugboats). The bill authorizes the board to impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 on violators of the law concerning docking masters. The bill repeals the provisions of law that establish the Joint Committee on the Port of Baltimore.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues from the bill's monetary penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Docking Masters has five members: two licensed docking masters, a representative from a towing boat company, and two consumer members. Violators of the law concerning docking masters are guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment of up to six months.

There are no provisions governing a docking master's business involvement with a tugboat company.

Background: Chapter 509 of 2000 established the State Board of Docking Masters in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. It also established the Joint Committee on the Port of Baltimore. To date, no appointments have been made to the committee. The board is the regulatory authority governing the licensing of docking masters and the safety of docking services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 9, 2001
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