

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1020 (Delegate Barve, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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**Crimes - Sale, Offer for Sale, Manufacture, and Distribution of "Bidi" Cigarettes**

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This bill prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale, manufacturing, or distributing "bidi cigarettes." Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a \$500 fine for each bidi cigarette sold, offered for sale, manufactured, or distributed.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential significant increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision for those cases heard in District Court. Approximately 20 bidi cigarettes come in a packet, meaning the fine for the sale of one packet could be \$10,000. Minimal decrease in sales tax revenues. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential significant increase in revenues due to the bill's penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** A bidi cigarette is a roll of any size or shape for smoking that is made of tobacco or tobacco leaves mixed with another ingredient and wrapped in tendu or temburni leaf.

**Current Law:** The sale of bidi cigarettes is not prohibited.

**Background:** Bidi cigarettes are small, hand-rolled, tobacco-filled, flavored cigarettes that are manufactured in India. They are sold in many convenience stores, gas stations, and smoke shops. The U.S. Attorney General reports that bidi cigarettes contain more than three times the nicotine and five times the tar of a regular cigarette.

In Maryland, bidi cigarettes are subject to the tobacco tax, as well as the sales and use tax.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced as HB 1210 in the 2000 session. No action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2002  
mld/jr Revised - Correction - March 12, 2002

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