

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 132 (Delegates Petzold and Frush)
Environmental Matters

Tobacco Products - Restrictions on Display or Storage

This bill prohibits sellers or distributors of tobacco products for commercial purposes from displaying or storing tobacco products in any place that is accessible to a purchaser without intervention of the seller or an employee of the seller. The bill also provides that if a county law is more restrictive, the county law controls.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Small Business Effect: According to the 1998 Survey of U.S. Business by the U.S. Census Bureau, over 92% of general merchandise stores, food and beverage stores, and gas stations (places where individuals may purchase tobacco products), have fewer than 20 employees.

Tobacco manufacturers and wholesalers have in the past provided incentives and discounts to retailers based on the location and display of their products. Depending on the nature and size of any current incentive or discount for a small business, there could

be a loss of revenue or net profit due to the increased costs to the business owner and/or reduced sales.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced as HB 570 in the 2001 session. It received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s) Comptroller of the Treasury (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2002
ncs/jr

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