

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1182 (Delegates Owings and Cane)
Commerce and Government Matters

Public Facilities - Refusal of Service - Prohibition

This bill prohibits owners or operators of certain facilities open to the public from refusing to serve an individual solely on the basis of the individual's mode of transportation, hairstyle, or style of dress. The prohibition does not apply when the individual's clothing contains profanity or obscenity or fits the individual in a way that is indecent or constitutes a health hazard to the premises of the owner. The bill also excludes a requirement of cleanliness, uniforms, or prescribed attire when uniformly applied for admittance to a place of public accommodation or to a class of employers for a customary or reasonable business purpose. The bill also provides that an owner is liable in a civil action to a complainant for an amount ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500, depending on the number of times the owner has previously violated the requirements of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 complaints per year stemming from this bill, any additional workload could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar bills were introduced in the 2001 and 1996 sessions. In 2001, SB 762 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. In 1996, SB 278 failed on third reading in the Senate.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Human Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2002
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