

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 418  
Judiciary

(Cecil County Delegation)

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**Cecil County - Water or Wastewater Property or Appurtenant - Damage or Destruction**

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This bill prohibits a person from defacing, tearing down, tampering with, or destroying water meters, curb stop boxes or valves, sewer clean outs, or any other water or wastewater appurtenant. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or both, and must pay the cost of the repairs.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Cecil County expenditures could decrease if violators are held financially accountable for the damages they cause to water meters, curb stop boxes or valves, sewer clean outs, or any other water or wastewater appurtenant. Future expenditures for vandalism insurance could be contained if repair costs can be shifted to perpetrators. Any decrease is expected to be minimal and is not expected to significantly affect Cecil County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Cecil County does not have a specific provision of law dealing with the unauthorized damage or destruction of water or wastewater appurtenants.

In Maryland, the willful and malicious destruction of any real or personal property of another is a misdemeanor. If the damage is less than \$500, a person upon conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment not to exceed 60 days, or both. If the damage is \$500 or more, a person upon conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed \$2,500, imprisonment not to exceed three years, or both.

**Background:** Cecil County advises that significant costs of vandalism to water and wastewater appurtenants are currently covered by insurance.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Cecil County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2002  
lsc/hlb

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Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

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