

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 948

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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**Prince George's County - Roadside Solicitation - Children**  
**PG 418-02**

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This bill prohibits a child under 15 years old from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection in Prince George's County to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle. Further, an adult may not cause, encourage, permit, or petition a child under 15 years old to engage in such activity. Such a child may not be found guilty or adjudicated delinquent of this offense if an adult caused, encouraged, permitted, or petitioned the child to commit the offense.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues from fines.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in local revenues from fines. Enforcement could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Except for the occupant of a disabled vehicle who seeks the aid of another vehicle, a person is prohibited from standing in a roadway to solicit a ride, employment, or business from an occupant of a vehicle. Further, a person is prohibited from standing on or near a highway to solicit any other person to guard any vehicle while it is parked or about to be parked. In Charles County, a person may not stand in a

roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

The penalty for a violation is \$50.

**Background:** Prince George's County advises that county ordinances already prohibit the type of solicitations described in the bill by minors or adults. The only change would be to hold harmless a child under 15 years old if the child was soliciting under the influence of an adult. Further, the county notes that current enforcement typically consists of a verbal warning and that citations or arrests are rare.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general funds to the extent that penalties would be paid to District Court.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced as HB 555 in the 1998 session and received an unfavorable report from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. In the 2000 session, HB 203 was passed out of the House, but received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2002  
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