

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 171

(Senator Jacobs, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Family Law - Marriage Ceremonies - Solicitation

This bill repeals the prohibition against erecting or maintaining an information booth or advertisement intended to help solicit the performance of any marriage ceremony.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An official authorized by State law to perform a marriage ceremony is prohibited from giving or offering to give any reward to any person as an inducement to direct to that authorized official any individual who is contemplating marriage. A person may not erect or maintain any information booth or advertisement intended to help solicit the performance of any marriage ceremony.

Any authorized official who gives or offers to give a reward as an inducement is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50 for each offense. A person who erects or maintains an information booth or advertisements in violation of this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100 for a first offense. For each subsequent offense, a person is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2003
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