

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 55

(Chairman, Judiciary Committee)

(By Request - Maryland Judicial Conference)

Judiciary

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**Circuit Courts and District Court - Bad Checks - Service Charges**

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This bill increases from \$10 to \$35 the fee for a dishonored check written to the District Court or a circuit court.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in general fund revenue for the District Court.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in revenue for the circuit courts.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** The Administrative Office of the Courts advises that the \$35 fee is consistent with that charged by private industry for a dishonored check.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The increased fee should result in additional revenue to the District Court. The Administrative Office of the Courts did not provide historical data relating to monies received from dishonored checks because it does not specifically track that information. However, the increase in revenue resulting from the bill is expected to be minimal. The District Court could experience efficiency savings if the higher fee results in fewer dishonored checks, therefore reducing the amount of clerical time spent on collection procedures.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The increased fee should result in additional revenue to the circuit courts. Efficiency savings could be experienced if the higher fee results in fewer dishonored checks.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 138 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 2003  
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