

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 216  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Fulton)

---

**Banking Institutions - Security Measures for At-Risk Banking Institutions**

---

This bill requires an “at-risk banking institution” to install bulletproof glass as a shield to separate its tellers from the public within six months after becoming at-risk. Under the bill, an at-risk banking institution is a State-chartered banking institution at which two robberies have occurred during a 24-month period. If an at-risk banking institution fails to install the glass within the six-month period and an employee suffers physical injury or death as a result of a subsequent robbery that occurs at the institution, the institution must pay a fine of up to \$5,000 and reimburse its employees for mental health services required as a direct result of the robbery.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The decision as to when or whether to install bulletproof glass at a banking institution is at the institution’s discretion.

**Background:** Under federal law and regulations, a federally chartered bank must have a security program that includes the following security devices: (1) a means of protecting

cash or other liquid assets, such as a vault or safe; (2) a lighting system for illuminating the area around the vault; (3) tamper-resistant locks; (4) an alarm system; and (5) other devices that the bank determines to be appropriate, taking into consideration: (a) the incidence of crime against financial institutions in the area; (b) the amount of currency or other valuables exposed to robbery, burglary, or larceny; (c) the bank's distance from the nearest law enforcement officers and the officers' ordinary response time; (d) the cost of the security devices; (e) other security measures in effect at the bank; and (f) the physical characteristics of the bank's structure and surroundings.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2003  
mdf/jr

---

Analysis by: Ryan Wilson

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510