

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 138 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Maryland Judicial Conference)

Judicial Proceedings

Circuit Courts and District Court - Bad Checks - Service Charges

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

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.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 55 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee) – Judiciary.

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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