

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 480

(Delegates Rosenberg and Brown)

Judiciary

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**Criminal Law - Interference with Commercial Athletic Event - Prohibited**

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This bill expands provisions prohibiting interference with a commercial athletic event. Specifically, the bill prohibits a nonparticipant in the contest from disrupting or interfering with a commercial athletic contest by: (1) throwing or projecting an object on the “playing field” or seating area; (2) unlawfully entering the playing field; or (3) assaulting any athletic contestant, athlete, manager, coach, umpire, or referee on the playing field. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the current law maximum penalties of a fine of \$250 and/or imprisonment for three months.

The bill also allows consecutive or concurrent sentencing for any crime based on the act establishing the violation of these provisions.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s monetary penalty provision.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill’s incarceration penalty provision.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under Criminal Law Article provisions relating to crimes against public health and safety, a person is prohibited from disrupting or interfering with a

“commercial athletic contest” by throwing or projecting an “object” on the playing field or seating area. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$250 and/or imprisonment for three months.

**Background:** In 2002 and 2003, fans ran onto professional baseball playing fields in Chicago and physically attacked working umpires.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill’s monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the District Court. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is expected to be minimal.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill’s incarceration penalty. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$29 to \$97 per inmate in fiscal 2005.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Caroline County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2004  
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