

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 661
Finance

(Senator Hooper)

Consumer Protection - Cellular Telephone Service Contracts

This bill prohibits a merchant, under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, from entering into a contract to provide cellular telephone service that exceeds one year in duration.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 complaints per year stemming from this bill, any additional workload could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Violation of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act is an unfair or deceptive trade practice. The Consumer Protection Division in the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for pursuing unfair or deceptive trade practice claims under the Act. The division may attempt conciliation, issue cease and desist orders, or seek action in court, including an injunction, to enforce the Act. Violators of the Act are also subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division),
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2004
lc/mdr

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