

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 463
Finance

(Senator DeGrange)

Consumer Protection - Credit Card Accounts - Related Services

This bill prohibits a person that issues a credit card to a consumer, under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, from imposing a fee or charge, or including a fee or charge on a consumer's credit card statement, for a service related to the consumer's credit card account unless the consumer has: (1) requested the service; or (2) agreed in writing to receive the service.

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: Potential 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 and 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 15, 2004
mh/mdr

Analysis by: Ryan Wilson

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