

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 469

(Delegate Smigiel, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Cecil County - Palm Readers, Fortune-Tellers, and Soothsayers - Licensing

This bill repeals the requirement that palm readers, fortune-tellers, and soothsayers be licensed by the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County in order to conduct business.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Cecil County finances would not be affected by repealing the licensing requirement for palm readers, fortune-tellers, and soothsayers.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Cecil County, palm readers, fortune-tellers, and soothsayers are required to apply to the Cecil County Commissioners for a license to conduct business. The board may issue the license only upon proof that the person applying for the license has been a resident, taxpayer, and property owner in Cecil County for at least 18 months prior to the application for the license. The board may revoke the license for good cause. The annual fee for the license is \$250.

Background: Chapter 501 of 2002 repealed a similar law in Charles County requiring the licensing of palm readers, fortune-tellers, and soothsayers.

Local Fiscal Effect: Cecil County advises that two establishments are currently operating in the county that provide palm reading, fortune-telling, and soothsaying services and that these establishments are required to be licensed under current law. However, the county further advises that it has no record of any application or payment for this type of license or any issuance of this type of license. Accordingly, county finances would not be affected by repealing the licensing requirement for palm readers, fortune-tellers, and soothsayers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Cecil County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2004
n/ljm

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