

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1044 (Chairman, Health and Government Operations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – State Police)

Health and Government Operations

Judicial Proceedings

State Fire Prevention Commission - Evacuation Assistance Symbol - Repeal

This departmental bill repeals the requirement that the State Fire Prevention Commission develop a program to identify, by the display of a sign, sticker, or other appropriate symbol, the dwellings of occupants who, because of age, blindness, disability, or physical or mental illness, are unable to evacuate the dwelling without assistance in case of fire. The bill also repeals the requirement that the commission adopt regulations to govern the distribution and use of the symbols.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's changes would not measurably affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Fire Prevention Commission is required to develop a program to identify by the display of a sign, sticker, or other appropriate symbol, the dwellings of occupants who, because of age, blindness, disability, or physical or mental illness, are

unable to evacuate the building without assistance in case of fire. The commission adopted regulations to govern the distribution and use of the symbols.

Background: This requirement was originally enacted in 1957. The symbols normally come in the form of a sticker, which have become outmoded and a safety concern for the State Fire Marshal in that they may provide criminals with information as to where a special needs person resides. In addition, the technology of the State's 9-1-1 centers allows occupants to register special evacuation needs in a residence based on the telephone number and address of the person. First responders no longer rely on, or need to rely on, such stickers to identify special needs dwellings.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2005
n/jr

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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