

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 792  
Finance

(Senator Stone)

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**Business Regulation - Lodging Establishments - Bedbug Remediation**

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This bill requires the innkeeper of a lodging establishment in which bed bugs are present, or in which there is evidence of past or present bed bug infestation, to consult and contract with a licensed pest management professional to effectively identify and treat a bed bug infestation in a room in a lodging establishment.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** As the bill does not specify a method of enforcement or assign enforcement responsibilities to any State agency, State operations and expenditures are not materially affected. Further, it is assumed that revenues from fines assessed under the bill accrue to the general fund; however, general fund revenues are not anticipated to be materially affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** An innkeeper who violates the bill is subject to a \$50 fine for each day after bed bugs have been discovered that the innkeeper fails to comply with bill's remediation requirement, up to a maximum fine of \$1,000 for violations arising out of the same circumstances.

**Current Law:** “Innkeeper” means the owner, operator, manager, or keeper of a lodging establishment, or the agent of the owner, operator, manager, or keeper of a lodging establishment. “Lodging establishment” means an inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment that has at least four rooms available for a fee to transient guests for lodging or sleeping purposes.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) licenses commercial pest control and not-for-hire firms, issues permits to public agencies for pesticide application, and certifies private applicators (farmers or growers who wish to use restricted-use pesticides in the production of agricultural commodities).

**Background:** According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) are small, flat, parasitic insects that feed solely on the blood of people and animals while they sleep. Bed bugs are found across the world and have been spreading rapidly in parts of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other parts of Europe. They hide during the day in places such as the seams of mattresses, box springs, bed frames, headboards, dresser tables, inside cracks or crevices, behind wallpaper, or any other clutter or objects around a bed.

Signs of a bed bug infestation include (1) the bed bugs’ exoskeletons after molting; (2) bed bugs in the fold of mattresses and sheets; (3) rust-colored blood spots on mattresses or nearby furniture; and (4) a sweet musty odor.

MDA advises that small pest control businesses have been affected positively by the resurgence of bed bugs both nationally and in the State. Only licensed pest management professionals certified by MDA in Pest Control Category 7-A (General Pest Control) are authorized to make these treatments. MDA advises that it currently licenses 586 commercial pest control businesses in Pest Control Category 7-A. Those 586 licensed businesses employ 1,413 pesticide applicators that are certified in Category 7-A.

**Small Business Effect:** MDA estimates that approximately 85% to 90% of the companies licensed in Pest Control Category 7-A are small businesses. These businesses benefit to the extent that the bill generates additional demand for bed bug remediation services in the State.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2014  
mm/mcr

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