

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 968
Economic Matters

(Delegate A. Johnson)

Business Regulation – Licensing – Definition of Storage Warehouse

This bill excludes a self-service storage facility from the definition of “storage warehouse,” thereby exempting a self-service facility from the requirement to obtain a storage warehouse license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues decrease, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2026 due to the licensing exemption established by the bill. Expenditures are not materially affected.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: “Storage warehouse” means a building or structure used for keeping goods for a fee. A person must have a storage warehouse license to engage in those activities.

An applicant for a storage warehouse license must pay to the clerk of the court a license fee, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. Storage warehouse license fees collected by the clerk of the court must be paid to the Comptroller (the general fund).

Exhibit 1
License Fees for Storage Warehouses

<u>Storage Warehouse Located in Municipal Corporation or County with a Population of</u>	<u>Fee</u>
10,000 or less	\$30
10,001 to 20,000	50
20,001 to 50,000	75
More than 50,000	150

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Small Business Effect: As the bill exempts self-service storage facilities from the requirement to obtain a storage warehouse license, any such facilities are exempt from licensing fees.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 734 (Senator McKay) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2025
caw/mcr

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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