

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 65
Finance

(Senator Benson)

Business Regulation - Retail Service Stations - Video Cameras Required

This bill requires each retail service station dealer to (1) maintain at least one operational video camera on the exterior premises of the service station for the purpose of recording illegal activity and (2) preserve the recordings made by the video camera for at least 45 calendar days. The video camera must be capable of recording an image of an individual that is of sufficient quality to enable identification of an individual for the purpose of investigating or prosecuting suspected illegal activity. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Comptroller can enforce compliance with the bill with existing budgeted resources. The bill's penalty provisions are not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Retail service station dealers that do not already have an exterior operational video camera of sufficient quality may incur costs to purchase, install, and maintain a video camera and to preserve its recordings.

Analysis

Current Law: Retail service stations (*i.e.*, retail businesses where motor fuel is sold) must meet various registration, inspection, and signage requirements. Failure to comply

with these provisions related to the inspection and sale of motor fuel is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and/or one year imprisonment.

Retail service stations are not required to maintain an operational video camera as specified in the bill.

Background: The Comptroller advises that there are approximately 2,000 retail service stations in the State.

Small Business Effect: Security cameras and associated hardware and installation costs vary widely based on the type of camera and the data storage needs of the system. The lower range of prices for these systems begins at approximately \$1,000, not including installation cost. Retail service station dealers not already in compliance with the bill incur an expense to purchase, install, and maintain the video camera and associated hardware.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 967 of 2013, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the Senate Finance Committee. Its cross file, HB 1436, was referred to the Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 10, 2014
ns/mcr

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