

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 420 (Delegate C. Mitchell, et al.)
Commerce and Government Matters

Baltimore City - Citizen Review Boards

This bill abolishes the Complaint Evaluation Board as of October 1, 1996 and, in its place, creates a five-member Citizen Review Board in each Baltimore City police district to process and evaluate complaints against the police department.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by \$90,000 in FY 1997. Out-year expenditures would depend upon inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill provides that a review board has jurisdiction over complaints against police personnel with respect to abusive language, harassment, and use of excessive force. Upon review of the investigative report by the Internal Investigation Division of each case, a review board must make one of the following four recommendations to the Police Commissioner:

- sustain the complaint and approve, disapprove, or modify the report's proposed action against the police personnel;
- dismiss the complaint because of lack or sufficiency of evidence;
- exonerate the police personnel because of the complainant's failure to prove the case; or

- remand the case for further investigation to the Internal Investigation Division, to the Maryland State Police, or to the State's Attorney.

In addition, the bill requires the Police Commissioner to appear before a review board if the review board disagrees with the commissioner's decision on a matter that came before the board.

Further, the Mayor must assign staff to each review board for the board's meetings.

Local Expenditures: Baltimore City expenditures could increase by about \$90,000 annually due to the hiring of nine part-time secretaries for the Citizen Review Boards. It is expected that one secretary would be assigned to each of the nine review boards throughout the city. Each secretary would be paid a salary of \$10,000. Out-year expenditures would depend upon inflation.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Fiscal Services

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