

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1170 (Delegate Marriott)
Appropriations

State Employees - Status of Firefighters at Martin State Airport

This bill provides that an Airport Firefighter I employed at the Martin State Airport who has completed six months of satisfactory service in that position is included in the classified service of the State Personnel Management System (SPMS). An employee who has not completed six months of satisfactory service as of October 1, 1996, will be placed in the classified service upon completion of six months of satisfactory service. The affected employees will not lose any compensation, accumulated leave, leave accrual rates, or other benefits solely as a result of this action.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential effect on federal fund revenues and expenditures, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: This bill impacts 21 employees of the Military Department who are firefighters at Martin State Airport and are currently unclassified employees in the State Personnel Management System (SPMS). These firefighters are trained members of the Maryland National Guard and must be deployable. The positions are fully funded by the federal government through the National Guard Bureau.

The Military Department advises that placing these positions in the classified SPMS system could jeopardize their continued funding. If the National Guard Bureau is concerned about the firefighters' employment status, the bureau could convert the positions to contractual status. In fact, the bureau has converted similar positions in other areas of the country to contractual status. If the bureau took similar action in Maryland, the positions would be

terminated and the State's federal fund revenues and expenditures would decrease by about \$720,000 annually.

Information Source(s): Department of Personnel, Military Department, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 1996

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