

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 498 (Senator Dorman, et al.)
Finance

Partnership Policy Council on Block Grants

This bill establishes a 27-member Partnership Policy Council on Block Grants.

The bill delineates the mission of the council, beginning with a requirement for review and analysis of existing, proposed, or adopted federal block grants and related implementing legislation, regulations, and administrative actions.

Members of the council serve without compensation, but are entitled to expense reimbursement. The council must appoint an executive director, who may appoint additional staff. On December 1, 1996, and each year thereafter, the council must submit a report on the implementation of federal block grants, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$59,300 in FY 1997. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and wage and inflation adjustments. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	59,300	80,600	82,200	83,900	85,500
Net Effect	(\$59,300)	(\$80,600)	(\$82,200)	(\$83,900)	(\$85,500)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$59,273 in fiscal 1997, which reflects the bill's October 1, 1996 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one Executive Director and one Staff Assistant, as provided by the bill, on a contractual basis. It includes salaries of \$52,728, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$57,473
Operating Expenses	<u>1,800</u>
Total FY 1997 State Expenditures	\$59,273

Future year expenditures reflect 2% annual increases in contractual salaries, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses.

The bill requires that council members be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The Office of the Governor advises that expenditures could increase by \$12,300 in fiscal 1997 due to these additional food and travel costs. Fiscal Services advises that actual expense reimbursements would depend upon the time, location, and frequency of the council's meetings. In any event, it is expected that any reimbursements could be handled with the existing resources of the Governor, the General Assembly, and the various State agencies designated to serve on the council.

Information Source(s): Office of the Governor, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 1996

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