

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 776 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

Prince George's County - Fire Investigators - Powers
PG 307-98

This amended bill authorizes fire investigation personnel of the Prince George's County Fire Department to exercise police powers while investigating arson and related crimes as long as the person is certified by the county as being trained and qualified in the use of handguns, and has satisfactorily completed the training required by the Maryland Police Training Commission. The authorization would include the authority to carry a gun and to make warrantless arrests.

This bill is effective June 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland Police Training Commission charges local governments only the cost recovery amount (\$50) of providing training.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal impact. This bill may result in additional revenues for a private contractor (to supply firearms) selected through the procurement process, which may be a small business.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: This legislation enables fire department personnel to carry out investigations and to make arrests without the need to seek assistance from police agencies. Theoretically, this allows for greater efficiencies, but would not necessarily produce quantifiable savings or have a measurable fiscal impact on the county.

Since there are generally four - five fire investigators working for the county at any given time, only a small number of weapons would be needed to outfit these personnel. Accordingly, any costs associated with equipping investigators with guns can be handled within the existing budgeted resources of the county. It is also assumed that, at \$50 per person, the cost of meeting Maryland Police Training Commission charges can be handled with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 1998
Inc Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 1998

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