

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 910  
Judiciary

(Delegate Barkley, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Public Safety - Correctional Officers - Minimum Age**

---

This bill provides that the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services must adopt regulations requiring that a correctional officer hired by the Division of Correction (DOC) on or after October 1, 2007 be at least 21 years old. The regulations must exempt any honorably discharged veteran or reserve member of the U.S. armed forces from the minimum age requirement.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal effect on DOC operations and finances. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under current regulations, an applicant for a State or local correctional officer position must be at least 18 years old, be a U.S. citizen or resident alien (and submit proof of status), and possess at least a high school diploma or a General Education Development certificate. A college degree may be accepted in place of the high school diploma.

**State Fiscal Effect:** This bill should not have a significant fiscal or operational impact on DOC. DOC hiring data shows relatively few correctional officers under 21. Of the

current 4,881 correctional officers in DOC, 173 are under that age. The extent to which this bill could affect the agency's ability to fill future vacancies cannot be reliably predicted. Any prolonged vacancies could lead to additional overtime costs.

**Exhibit 1** sets forth the systemwide interviews and hiring done by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) over the past four years. It shows that the number of new hires under 21 is steadily increasing.

---

**Exhibit 1**  
**DPSCS Correctional Officer Interviews and Hires**  
**Including Applicants Under 21**  
**Calendar 2003-2006**

	<u>Applicants Interviewed</u>	<u>Applicants Hired</u>
<b>Calendar 2003</b>		
Total	1,474	608
Under 21	145	25
<b>Calendar 2004</b>		
Total	2,130	798
Under 21	302	152
<b>Calendar 2005</b>		
Total	2,573	987
Under 21	523	219
<b>Calendar 2006</b>		
Total	3,807	1,098
Under 21	755	270

---

---

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 975 of 2006 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2007  
mll/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2007  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 1, 2007

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510