

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 925 (Senator Middleton)
Judicial Proceedings

**Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography
Crimes in Maryland**

This bill creates the Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland. The bill establishes membership of the task force and requires the task force to study specified topics. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) must staff the task force.

The task force must report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2014, and its final findings and recommendations by December 31, 2015.

The bill terminates September 30, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for GOCCP are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must study and make recommendations with regard to (1) the effectiveness of State laws, policies, and practices relating to Internet crimes against children and child pornography; (2) the availability of resources needed to

address these crimes; (3) the availability of public education to inform parents, teachers, and children about Internet safety and victimization prevention; (4) providing a comprehensive, multiagency response to the issues of Internet crimes against children and child pornography, including how to identify, investigate, apprehend, and successfully prosecute offenders who use the Internet, online communications systems, and other technologies to sexually exploit children; and (5) the role that Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland can be given in investigation and prosecution of child pornography cases and intervention on behalf of child computer crime victims. In studying and making recommendations, the task force must consider (1) the best practices in the field and (2) the costs and benefits of existing procedures and recommended changes.

Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2014
mm/kdm

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