

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 855
 Judiciary

(Delegate Knotts, *et al.*)

Law Enforcement Explorer Program - Funding

This bill establishes a Law Enforcement Explorer Program Fund, administered by the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), to assist local law enforcement agencies in establishing law enforcement explorer programs to give young adults an opportunity to learn more about careers in the field of law enforcement. For fiscal 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the fund of \$400,000.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$37,300 in FY 2016 for GOCCP to develop procedures and administer the fund. Future year general fund expenditures reflect annualization and inflation and include \$400,000 annually to capitalize the new fund due to the bill’s mandated appropriation. Special fund revenues increase by \$400,000 annually beginning in FY 2017; special fund expenditures increase correspondingly to provide grants to local programs. General fund revenues increase minimally beginning in FY 2017 from investment earnings of the new fund. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2017.**

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
GF Revenue	\$0	-	-	-	-
SF Revenue	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
GF Expenditure	\$37,300	\$467,500	\$470,700	\$474,100	\$477,600
SF Expenditure	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Net Effect	(\$37,300)	(\$467,500)	(\$470,700)	(\$474,100)	(\$477,600)

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

Local Effect: Local grant revenues and expenditures increase by a total of \$400,000 annually beginning in FY 2017 to establish law enforcement explorer programs.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The fund consists of money appropriated in the State budget, investment earnings, and money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund. The fund may only be used to make grants to local law enforcement agencies; the fund may not be used for administrative expenses.

The Executive Director of GOCCP must establish procedures for local law enforcement agencies to apply for money from the fund. A local law enforcement agency that applies for money from the fund must provide the Executive Director with:

- the eligibility requirements for membership in the law enforcement explorer program;
- the number of members of the program;
- a description of the activities and functions of the program; and
- any other information that the Executive Director considers necessary.

The Executive Director must make grants from the fund to local law enforcement agencies to support local programs. The amount of each grant must be in proportion to the number of agencies that apply for money from the fund. The local agency must submit proof of grant expenditures for the program. Money distributed from the fund must be used to *supplement*, and not *supplant*, any other funding for a law enforcement explorer program.

By September 1 of each year, the Executive Director of GOCCP must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the distribution of money under the bill.

Current Law/Background: The Law Enforcement Exploring program originated with the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America. Since 1998, this program has been promoted by the Learning for Life Corporation as a career education program for young men and women who are age 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) or age 15 through 20.

According to the Learning for Life Corporation, exploring programs are endorsed by many professional organizations, including the International Chiefs of Police Association and the National Sheriff's Association. Each program has a law enforcement sponsoring agency

and is based on the following areas of emphasis: career opportunities, life skills, service learning, character education, and leadership experience.

For more information on these programs, see [Law Enforcement Exploring: Program and Resource Guide for Adult Learners](#).

State Fiscal Effect: Because the bill prohibits the use of the special fund for GOCCP's administrative expenses, and because GOCCP's duties begin prior to capitalization of the fund, general fund expenditures increase by \$37,297 in fiscal 2016, which assumes an implementation date of January 1, 2016. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one fiscal specialist in GOCCP to establish grant application procedures and to administer the fund. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$32,719
Additional Equipment	4,285
Other Operating Expenses	<u>293</u>
Total FY 2016 State Expenditures	\$37,297

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. Beginning in fiscal 2017, general fund expenditures also reflect the bill's mandated appropriation of \$400,000 annually to capitalize the new fund. As a result, special fund revenues increase by \$400,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2017. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that special fund expenditures increase correspondingly each year beginning in fiscal 2017, even though the total amount of grants made from the fund in any given year is unknown.

Although the bill indicates that investment earnings of the new special fund remain in the fund, the bill does not amend § 6-226 of the State Finance and Procurement Article to exempt the fund from existing law that requires all investment earnings and interest from special funds to accrue to the general fund. Thus, general fund revenues increase minimally from interest earned on the new special fund beginning in fiscal 2017.

It is assumed that State finances are not affected in fiscal 2015, despite the bill's June 1, 2015 effective date.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local grant revenues increase in total by up to \$400,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2017 due to the establishment of the fund. The distribution of grants among jurisdictions cannot be predicted. Local expenditures increase correspondingly to establish law enforcement explorer programs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, and Montgomery counties; Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Department of Budget and Management; Learning for Life Corporation; Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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