

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1126
Judiciary

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Prince George's County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs
Task Force
PG 307-16

This bill establishes the Prince George's County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs Task Force. The task force members representing Prince George's County from the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates must co-chair the task force, and the Prince George's County Department of Corrections must provide staff for the task force. By December 1, 2016, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the members of the Prince George's County Delegation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for Prince George's County are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must study:

- how pretrial release programs, work release programs, and diversion programs in other jurisdictions that offer to detention are organized and operate;
- whether the programs would benefit the criminal justice process in Prince George's County;
- what type of offenders should be eligible for the programs; and
- what would be required to establish the programs in Prince George's County.

The task force must make recommendations regarding the establishment of a pretrial release program, work release program, and diversion program in Prince George's County.

A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Current Law: Prince George's County, under statute, may operate a work release program. The administrator may allow an inmate sentenced to imprisonment in a detention center after being convicted of a crime or found in contempt of court to leave actual confinement to (1) seek or work at gainful, private employment; (2) participate in a training or rehabilitation program; or (3) attend educational or vocational institutions in the county.

When an inmate is not employed or otherwise participating in a work release program, the inmate must be confined in the detention center in the same manner as any other inmate committed to the custody of the administrator. If an inmate violates a trust or a condition that the administrator establishes in the rules for conduct or employment, the inmate is subject to removal from the work release program, and, after an administrative hearing, subject to cancellation of any earned diminution of the inmate's term of confinement. In addition, an inmate participating in the work release program is subject to specified deductions from the inmate's earnings.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Public Defender, State's Attorneys' Association, Department of

Juvenile Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2016
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