

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1497 (Delegate Carter)
Health and Government Operations

Maryland Law Enforcement Communications Technology Procurement Task Force

This bill establishes the Maryland Law Enforcement Communications Technology Procurement Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding specified aspects of the procurement of communications technology by the State's law enforcement agencies. The Department of General Services (DGS) staffs the task force. Members of the task force may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for standard travel expenses. By December 31, 2016, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly.

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2016. General fund expenditures for DGS increase by \$32,000 in FY 2017 only to staff the task force. Reimbursement for the travel expenses can likely be handled with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	32,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$32,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no current law specifically related to the procurement of communications technology by law enforcement agencies. The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is designated in statute as the control agency for all procurement of telecommunications equipment and services.

Background: Due to increasing demands for radio spectrum, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' Project 25, a longstanding partnership between public safety organizations and industry manufacturers, seeks to satisfy the complex and evolving communication needs of public safety officials. Project 25 develops voluntary, consensus-based communication standards under the auspices of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), which is accredited by the American National Standards Institute. The standards published by TIA establish the basis upon which (1) manufacturers develop, implement, and offer P25 equipment and systems; (2) recognized laboratories conduct P25 compliance testing; and (3) users specify, procure, and operate P25 radios and communications infrastructure.

State Expenditures: DGS has no relevant expertise in the procurement of telecommunications equipment because DoIT controls such procurements for the State. Therefore, DGS must hire a contractual employee with such expertise to assist the task force with its work.

General fund expenditures by DGS increase by \$31,955 in fiscal 2017, which accounts for a one-month delay from the bill's June 1, 2016 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual employee with expertise in telecommunications procurement for six months to staff the task force (which equates to a half-time position for the year). It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and other operating expenses.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$27,290
Operating Expenses	<u>4,665</u>
Total FY 2017 State Expenditures	\$31,955

The contractual position is assumed to terminate after six months, when the task force's report is due. Therefore, there are no out-year costs.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1246 of 2015 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee but did not receive a hearing.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services; Department of State Police; Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, Inc.; Department of Legislative Services

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mel/ljm

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