

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 10 (Delegate Conaway)
 Judiciary

Public Safety - Crime Scene DNA Collection and Analysis - Status Reports

This bill increases the reporting requirements, from biennially to biannually, for submission of specified crime scene DNA collection and analysis to the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) by local law enforcement units and the Department of State Police (DSP). The bill requires GOCCP to compile the reported information within 90 days after each reporting deadline and provide a summary report of the information to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the mayor or other municipal executive of any jurisdiction whose local law enforcement unit provided the required information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$90,900 in FY 2018 for DSP to comply with the bill’s reporting requirements. Future years reflect annualization. GOCCP can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	90,900	101,700	106,000	110,600	115,400
Net Effect	(\$90,900)	(\$101,700)	(\$106,000)	(\$110,600)	(\$115,400)

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

Local Effect: Minimal. The bill’s additional reporting and notification requirements can generally be handled with existing budgeted resources of local law enforcement agencies. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Each law enforcement unit and DSP must report specified crime scene DNA collection and analysis to GOCCP by June 1 annually for the period from October 1 through March 31, inclusive, of the previous year and by January 1 annually for the period from April 1 through September 30, inclusive, of the previous year.

Current Law: By April 1, 2010, and April 1 of every even-numbered year thereafter, each local law enforcement unit must report to GOCCP on the status of crime scene DNA collection and analysis in its respective jurisdiction for the preceding calendar year. DSP must report to GOCCP on the status of crime scene DNA collection statewide for the preceding calendar year, including:

- the crimes for which crime scene DNA evidence is routinely collected;
- the approximate number of crime scene DNA evidence samples collected during the preceding year for each category of crime;
- the average time between crime scene DNA evidence collection and analysis;
- the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples collected and not analyzed at the time of the study;
- the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples submitted to the statewide DNA data base during the preceding year; and
- the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples, including sexual assault evidence, collected by hospitals in the county during the preceding year.

GOCCP must compile the required information reported by the local law enforcement units and DSP and submit an annual summary report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

State Expenditures: DSP reports that the current biennial analysis and reporting requirement is handled within the workload of three full-time research statisticians. However, DSP cannot comply with the bill's more frequent reporting requirements with existing staff. Accordingly, general fund expenditures for DSP increase by \$90,932 in fiscal 2018, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2017 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one research statistician to prepare the analyses and submit the required reports to GOCCP. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, ongoing operating expenses, and a new license for specialized computer software.

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Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$74,823
Other Operating Expenses/Equipment	<u>16,109</u>
Total FY 2018 State Expenditures	\$90,932

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

The bill's additional reporting and notification requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of GOCCP.

Local Expenditures: Overall, the bill is expected to have minimal impact on local operations and finances and can generally be implemented with the existing resources of local law enforcement agencies. The Maryland Association of Counties advises that the bill has an operational impact on local law enforcement units due to the increase in the frequency of the required reports from once every two years to twice each year. Washington County reports that the additional data collection and reporting under the bill requires an estimated 10 additional hours in overtime per quarter, which costs approximately \$1,500 in salaries and benefits. Montgomery County does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact resulting from the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of College Park; Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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