

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 326 (Delegate Grammer)
 Judiciary

Clerks of the Courts - Case Management System - Information on Judge or Magistrate

This bill requires the clerk of a court, including a clerk of the District Court, when providing case information for the case management system of the relevant court, to include the name of the judge or magistrate who (1) after a hearing is held, presided over the hearing or (2) took judicial action, including granting a motion, issuing a summons or warrant, or entering a judgment. The Administrative Office of the Courts must include this information when publishing case information for the Maryland Judiciary Case Search. The bill has prospective application and only affects information for an active case entered into Case Search after the bill’s October 1, 2021 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$132,700 in FY 2022 only for programming changes. Otherwise, the bill does not materially affect the workload of the clerks’ offices. Revenues are not affected.

| (in dollars) | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 |
|----------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GF Expenditure | 132,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Effect | (\$132,700) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Case Search provides online access to State court case records, as governed by Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records. Subject to various exceptions as set forth in statute and the Maryland Rules, information in Case Search generally includes the names of parties, case number, trial date, charge, and case disposition, among other items, for civil, criminal, and traffic cases. Information regarding the name of the judge or magistrate is not prohibited from being included, nor is it specifically required.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 75 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 254 of 2019, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2021
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