CE.00
Maryland Tax Court

Operating Budget Data

($ in Thousands)

	FY 00 Actual	FY 01 Working	FY 02 Allowance	Change	% Change Prior Year
General Fund	$464	$517	$549	$33	6.3%
Total Funds	**$464**	**$517**	**$549**	**$33**	**6.3%**

Personnel Data

	FY 00 Actual	FY 01 Working	FY 02 Allowance	Change
Regular positions	9.00	9.00	9.00	0.00
Contractual FTEs	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.00
Total Personnel	**9.90**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**0.00**

Vacancy Data: Permanent

Budgeted turnover: Fiscal 2002	0.00	0.00%
Positions vacant as of 12/31/00	0.00	0.00%

Analysis in Brief

Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

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CE.00
Maryland Tax Court

Operating Budget Analysis

Program Description

The Maryland Tax Court (MTC) provides the final administrative hearing for appeals from taxing authorities in Maryland. Decisions of the Comptroller, Property Tax Assessment Appeals Boards, and local collectors are among those appealed to the court. Decisions of the tax court may be appealed to the circuit court. MTC is composed of five judges appointed for six-year terms by the Governor.

Governor's Proposed Budget

The fiscal 2002 allowance for the MTC is $549,450, an increase of $32,566 or 6.3% over the fiscal 2001 appropriation. MTC is fully supported by general funds. Personnel expenses account for 88% of the court's budget and 74% of the difference between the fiscal 2001 working appropriation and fiscal 2002 allowance. The court receives no new permanent or contractual positions in the fiscal 2002 allowance. **Exhibit 1** provides a table of expenses accounting for the increase in the fiscal 2002 allowance.

Exhibit 1

Governor's Proposed Budget
Maryland Tax Court
($ in Thousands)

How Much It Grows:	General Fund	Total
2001 Working Appropriation	$517	$517
2002 Governor's Allowance	549	549
Amount Change	$33	$33
Percent Change	6.3%	6.3%

Where It Goes:

Personnel Expenses	
Fiscal 2002 general salary increase	8
Increments, fiscal 2001 increase phase-in and other	19
Employee and retiree health insurance rate change	(3)
Retirement contribution rate change	(3)
Other fringe benefit adjustments	3
Nonpersonnel Expenses	
Increased contractual employee compensation for contractual courtroom clerks	2
Replacement of computer equipment	3
Furniture for one new judge	2
Increased insurance costs	3
Decreased telecommunications' costs	(2)
Miscellaneous supplies and contractual services	1
Total	**$33**

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Performance Analysis: Managing for Results

Efficiency and Quality Improve

Exhibit 2 displays performance measurement data for MTC. MTC expects to improve case processing efficiency and customer satisfaction in fiscal 2001 and 2002. The court has decreased the number of cases pending at year's end significantly, from 847 in 1998 to an expected 662 in fiscal 2001. Filling a vacant judgeship in November 1999 has and should continue to improve the court's efficiency. Because commercial property tax cases are more complex and require more time and resources to resolve, their increase contributes to a slight increase in the median time for case disposition from 1999 to 2000.

Exhibit 2

Program Measurement Data
Maryland Tax Court
Fiscal Years

Caseload	Actual 1997	Actual 1998	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Est. 2001	Est. 2002	Ann. Chg. 98-00	Ann. Chg. 00-02
Cases pending beginning of year	827	793	847	913	812	662	5.1%	-14.8%
Cases docketed	966	935	831	751	800	800	-11.8%	3.2%
Disposed cases	1,000	884	763	850	950	950	-7.8%	5.7%
Cases pending end of year	793	847	913	812	662	512	1.2%	-20.6%
Appeals to the circuit court	27	32	24	30	30	30	5.4%	0.0%
Quality								
Median time - days/case	n/a	n/a	230	250	200	180		
Citizen Survey rating	n/a	n/a	above avg	above avg	Excellent	Excellent		

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Maryland Tax Court

The court measures the quality of its work in several ways. Its citizen satisfaction surveys indicate stable above average ratings. The court hopes to improve these ratings to excellent in fiscal 2001 and 2002. The court also monitors the percentage of appeals affirmed by the Court of Appeals. Since data for 2000 is incomplete, this measure is not reported in Exhibit 2. The court expects to improve its 1999 affirm rate of 88% to 95% by fiscal 2001.

The court's MFR strategies and its Information Technology Project Request are consistent with each other and with its fiscal 2002 allowance. Many of its strategies to improve efficiency, quality, and citizen satisfaction involve information technology projects such as improved case management methods, an improved web site, and the completion of a searchable opinion database.

Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Appendix 1

Current and Prior Year Budgets

Current and Prior Year Budgets
Maryland Tax Court
($ in Thousands)

	General Fund	Special Fund	Federal Fund	Reimb. Fund	Total
Fiscal 2000					
Legislative Appropriation	$461	$0	$0	$0	$461
Deficiency Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0
Budget Amendments	5	0	0	0	5
Reversions and Cancellations	(2)	0	0	0	(2)
Actual Expenditures	**$464**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$464**
Fiscal 2001					
Legislative Appropriation	$513	$0	$0	$0	$513
Budget Amendments	4	0	0	0	4
Working Appropriation	**$517**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$517**

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Object/Fund Difference Report
Maryland Tax Court

Object/Fund	FY00 Actual	FY01 Working Appropriation	FY02 Allowance	FY01 - FY02 Amount Change	Percent Change
Positions					
01 Regular	9.00	9.00	9.00	0	0%
Total Positions	**9.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**0**	**0%**
Objects					
01 Salaries and Wages	$ 420,772	$ 459,180	$ 483,183	$ 24,003	5.2%
02 Technical & Spec Fees	10,516	20,888	22,951	2,063	9.9%
03 Communication	3,139	11,896	9,649	(2,247)	(18.9%)
04 Travel	4,049	5,100	5,100	0	0%
08 Contractual Services	9,298	8,107	8,516	409	5.0%
09 Supplies & Materials	5,741	8,369	8,969	600	7.2%
10 Equip - Replacement	9,828	0	4,786	4,786	N/A
11 Equip - Additional	0	2,113	2,113	0	0%
13 Fixed Charges	325	1,231	4,183	2,952	239.8%
Total Objects	**$ 463,668**	**$ 516,884**	**$ 549,450**	**$ 32,566**	**6.3%**
Funds					
01 General Fund	$ 463,668	$ 516,884	$ 549,450	$ 32,566	6.3%
Total Funds	**$ 463,668**	**$516,884**	**$ 549,450**	**$ 32,566**	**6.3%**

Note: Full-time and contractual positions and salaries are reflected for operating budget programs only.