

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 530 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Departmental - Public Safety and Correctional Services)
Judiciary Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

This amended departmental bill extends indefinitely a \$3 court fee on minor traffic offenses paid to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and Victims of Crime Fund, and alters the board's administrative procedures.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Revenue and expenditures of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the Victims of Crime Fund from court costs for minor traffic offenses would continue as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund revenue of approximately \$2.1 million annually will be maintained to pay awards made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. The fund receives a federal match of 40%, with a two-year lag. As a result, federal fund revenue of approximately \$847,000 will continue beyond fiscal 1999.

Victims of Crime Fund revenue of \$250,000 annually will be maintained to pay grants made by the State Board of Victims' Services.

State Expenditures: Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund revenues are used to pay claims awarded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. The board has a current backlog of \$4.5 million in claims, and makes awards of \$2 to \$3 million annually. As revenue increases to the fund, expenditures will increase to address the backlog and pay new awards.

Assuming a constant level of revenue and new claims of \$3.0 million annually, the backlog of cases will be eliminated by fiscal 2001 and the fund will begin to build a surplus. This surplus would be \$78,800 at the end of fiscal 2001.

Victims of Crime Fund revenues are used for grants awarded by the State Board of Victims' Services. As fund revenue is maintained, grant awards will presumably remain at a similar level.

The fiscal 1997 allowance for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board does not assume passage of this bill. As a result, this bill would presumably result in a supplemental budget or budget amendment to authorize distribution of these funds.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Criminal Injuries Compensation Board), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1996
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