

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 371 (Senator Hafer)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Resident Students -
Criminal Background Investigations**

This bill requires the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College to ask students (on a student housing application), under penalty of perjury, whether they have been convicted of a crime. If the student admits to having been convicted of a crime, the institution must require the student to obtain a Maryland criminal history record check. A housing application cannot be approved until the institution has received the student's criminal history information. A student may be denied housing based on the student's criminal history, and must be denied housing if the student has been convicted of a violent crime.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Morgan State University and St. Mary's College both estimate this bill would increase expenditures by approximately \$30,000 annually, including one half-time person to implement and monitor a system to implement this bill.

The two institutions have a combined enrollment of approximately 7,000 full-time equivalent students. Even assuming half of these students indicate prior convictions, it is unlikely that the schools would require additional staff. Processing housing applications is a seasonal activity, and the additional time to process applications where the student had indicated a criminal conviction should be minimal. In addition, the University of Maryland System

estimates the bill would require no additional resources.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services charges \$18 for a Maryland criminal history record check. Based on the number of criminal history records checks anticipated as a result of this bill, the Department of Public Safety will not incur any costs beyond the fee for the record check, which must be paid by the applicant.

Information Source(s): University of Maryland System, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Data Services Division), Department of Fiscal Services

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Analysis by: Robert C. Bates
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710