

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 192 (Senator Pica)
Judicial Proceedings

Minors - Unlawful Contact or Communication With

This bill prohibits a person from intentionally contacting or communicating with a minor in person, through an agent, or through specified media for the purpose of committing a criminal act against or with the minor. Violators are guilty of a felony and subject to a fine of not more than \$25,000 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in revenues and expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. As this is a new crime, it is unknown how many people would be affected by its imposition.

Persons serving a sentence longer than 12 months are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1997 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,400.

Persons serving a sentence of 12 months or less are sentenced to a local detention facility. The State reimburses counties for part of their per diem rate after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 1997 are estimated to range from \$11 to \$50

per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1997 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$22 to \$108 per inmate in fiscal 1997.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 1996
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Analysis by: Lori Caldwell-Valentine
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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