

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 222 (The President) (Administration)
Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

This enrolled Administration bill establishes a 19-member commission charged with evaluating the State's sentencing and correctional laws and policies and developing a correctional population simulation model. The commission must submit an interim report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 1996 and a final report by September 30, 1997.

The bill is effective June 1, 1996, sunsets June 30, 1997, and is contingent on a \$1 million capital appropriation for planning of housing unit #5 at Western Correctional Institution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$50,000 in FY 1997. Revenues would not be affected. The FY 1997 budget contains an appropriation of \$50,000 contingent upon enactment of this bill.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: A small business impact statement was not provided by the Administration in time for inclusion in this fiscal note. A revised fiscal note will be issued when the Administration's assessment becomes available.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The commission is required to meet at least six times during its seven month existence, with commission members eligible for reimbursement for expenses in accordance with State travel regulations. These expenses could be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Judiciary (three members), the Governor's Office (seven

members), and the General Assembly (six members). In addition, one member would come from each of the following agencies: the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Likewise, the expenses for these members could be handled with existing resources of the affected entities.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (OCCP) will serve as the staff to the commission. The OCCP estimates it would require an additional \$50,000 total in fiscal 1997. The fiscal 1997 budget includes \$50,000, contingent upon enactment of this bill, for this purpose.

This bill is contingent upon authorization of \$1 million for planning, design, and site work for a fifth housing unit at the Western Correctional Institution in the fiscal 1997 capital budget. These funds were included in the capital budget.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Reference, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Public Defender, Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Executive Department (Office of Crime Control and Prevention), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 1996
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Analysis by: Robert C. Roberts	Direct Inquiries to:
Reviewed by: John Rixey	John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
	(410) 841-3710
	(301) 858-3710