

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 512 (Senator Collins)
(Baltimore County Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

**Drunk and Drugged Driving Offenses -
Fines - Baltimore County Treatment Access Program Fund**

This amended bill establishes the Baltimore County Treatment Access Program Fund. The Baltimore County Office of Finance must administer the fund. In any criminal proceeding in which a defendant is found guilty of drunk or drugged driving, the District Court must impose a fine of \$50 in addition to any other fine imposed under State law. However, upon a finding of hardship, the court may waive the fine. The clerk of the District Court must transmit any fines collected to the Baltimore County Director of Finance.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential general fund expenditure increase of up to \$546,000 in FY 1997. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues and expenditures could increase by \$45,000 in FY 1997. Out-year revenues and expenditures would reflect annualization and depend upon the number of violations.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The District Court estimates that general fund expenditures would increase by \$546,000 in fiscal 1997 due to the collection and transmission of fines from drunk and drugged driving violations. In order to account for and disburse the funds, the court would have to identify and track the payments from violators. Since the Maryland Automated Traffic System does not contain an accounting system capable of performing this task, extensive programming changes could be required. The District Court estimates that expenditures could increase by \$546,000 in fiscal 1997. This estimate reflects the costs

associated with hiring temporary analysts and programmers to modify the existing system over a period of six to nine months. **The Department of Fiscal Services cannot verify these numbers.**

Local Effect: In fiscal 1995 there were approximately 2,000 drugged and drunk driving cases processed in Baltimore County. Based on the 1995 caseload and a 60% collection rate, county revenues would increase by \$45,000 in fiscal 1997 reflecting the bill's October 1, 1996 effective date, and approximately \$60,000 annually thereafter, due to the imposition of the \$50 fine. It is expected that the revenues would be used in providing drugged and drunk driving treatment programs. Future year increases would depend upon the number of violations and the scope of treatment programs.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 1996

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