

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 53 (Senator Hollinger)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Dangerous Weapons - Possession by and Sale to Minors**

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This bill expands the prohibition against persons wearing or carrying specified dangerous or deadly weapons to include ninja knives or swords. The bill expands the type of weapons a minor is prohibited from possessing. Violators are subject to applicable penalties (a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than three years, or both).

The bill also prohibits the sale, trade, or gift of specified weapons to a minor. Violators are subject to applicable fines and court costs or confinement.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalty provisions.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalty provisions.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase under the applicable monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the applicable incarceration penalties 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.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year 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 one year 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 \$10 to \$48 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 applicable monetary penalty provisions 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 applicable incarceration penalties 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 \$19 to \$96 per inmate in fiscal 1997.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 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