

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 764 (Howard County Delegation)  
Judiciary

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**Howard County - Additional Court Costs - Funding for Programs to  
Reduce Violence  
Ho. Co. 5-96**

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This bill requires a court in Howard County to impose an additional cost of \$250 on each defendant convicted of a crime of domestic or family violence when the victim is the defendant's spouse or cohabitant. Further, the proceeds collected must be used to fund programs designed to reduce violence in the county, besides designated federal, State, and local funds.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in revenues and expenditures.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** Statistics regarding acts of domestic violence, child abuse or abuse of vulnerable adults where the victim is the defendant's spouse or cohabitant are not readily available. However, revenues would increase because of the additional cost to convicted defendants, although, it is unknown how many defendants would be affected by its imposition. As these funds are dedicated to programs to reduce violence in Howard County, it is assumed that expenditures for this purpose will rise commensurate with the increase in revenues.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Howard County,  
Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 1996

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