

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 534 (Senator Forehand, et al.)
Judicial Proceedings

County Detention Centers - Prisoners - Costs of Confinement

This bill allows the counties to recover the costs of incarceration from inmates in county detention centers. The sheriff must require prisoners to submit financial statements, and the county attorneys are authorized to file civil suits to recover the incarceration cost.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in revenues and expenditures. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Fiscal Analysis

Local Revenues: To the extent that county inmates have assets that can be used to reimburse counties for incarceration, revenues could increase. Any such revenue would depend upon the income and wealth of current and former inmates, the cost of incarceration, and the sheriff's ability to recover the costs. In fiscal 1997 the cost of incarceration in local detention centers is expected to range from \$19 to \$96 per day.

The Department of Fiscal Services notes that the State reimburses counties for a portion of the daily cost of incarceration for inmates serving more than 90 days in a county detention center. In fiscal 1997 reimbursement payments are expected to range from \$10 to \$48. This reimbursement would be in addition to any costs recovered by a county from an inmate.

Local Expenditures: The sheriffs may incur additional expenses for reviewing financial records and attempting to collect assessments from inmates and former inmates. It is assumed that any such costs would be offset by the revenues collected or the sheriff would not attempt to recover the costs. Prince George's County anticipates no measurable increase in costs for its sheriff's office.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 1996

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