

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 865 (Delegate Harkins, et al.)
Judiciary

Prison Inmate Reform Act

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to prohibit inmates from having access to and the use of weight training equipment or any type of martial arts training programs. The department must remove weight training equipment from inmate areas of prisons and either move it to staff areas or distribute it to law enforcement, fire, rescue, or emergency service agencies.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate effect on expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Potential minimal decrease in expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Division of Correction (DOC) advises that general fund expenditures could increase as inmate idleness and unrest increases the amount of good time credit forfeited, and that heightened tension could lead to increased absenteeism in already overcrowded and understaffed institutions. The Department of Fiscal Services advises that any such increase is speculative. The DOC does not permit any type of martial arts training in its facilities, so that provision will have no effect. In addition, the DOC does not have space in institutions for weight training equipment for correctional officers. In most institutions, the officers use the inmate equipment. As a result, virtually all weight equipment will be distributed to other agencies.

Equipment removed from the DOC may go to the State Police. To the extent that this equipment offsets the need for the State Police to purchase equipment, expenditures could be reduced. Any such reduction is assumed to be minimal.

Local Expenditures: Equipment removed from the DOC may go to local agencies. To the

extent that this equipment offsets the need for local agencies to purchase equipment, expenditures could be reduced. Any such reduction is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services)

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