

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 176 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Departmental - Public Safety and Correctional Services)

Judiciary

Inmate Grievance Office - Appeals

This departmental bill provides that appeal to a circuit court of an inmate grievance will be done without a hearing unless the inmate seeks immediate release from incarceration and the judge determines a hearing is required in the interest of justice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Fiscal Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Division of Correction would avoid costs for transporting inmates to circuit courthouses in about 250 cases annually. Any expenditure reductions, however, are expected to be minimal, as these inmates are typically transported with inmates going to court houses for other purposes.

The division's legal staff would see a decrease in travel expenses as they would not have to make as many trips from Baltimore to Anne Arundel, Somerset, and Washington counties for grievance appeals. In addition travel costs for the legal staff that are expected to increase under current law when Western Correctional Institution opens in mid-1996 would increase by a smaller amount under the provisions of the bill. The division anticipates that reduced travel and court time may save up to 1,200 attorney hours annually, resulting in a minimal decrease in expenditures.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Inmate Grievance Office, Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 1996

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