

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 516 (Delegate T. Murphy)
Judiciary

State Police - Computer Crimes - Jurisdiction of the Department

This bill expands the jurisdiction of the State Police to any area of the State when investigating and enforcing computer crime laws. Under current law, the Department of State Police does not have this authority in Baltimore City and incorporated municipalities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: To the extent that the expanded jurisdiction leads to additional arrests by the State Police, general fund revenues could increase under the existing \$1,000 maximum penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

State Expenditures: This grant of expanded authority could be handled with the existing resources of the State Police without the need for additional expenditures.

To the extent that expanded jurisdiction leads to additional arrests, general fund expenditures could increase as a result of the existing three-year maximum incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility, the Baltimore City Detention Center, 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 12 months 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 12 months 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 \$11 to \$51 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction.

Local Revenues: To the extent that the expanded jurisdiction leads to additional arrests, revenues could increase under the existing \$1,000 maximum penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Local Expenditures: To the extent that the expanded jurisdiction leads to additional arrests, expenditures could increase as a result of the existing three-year maximum incarceration penalty, 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 \$22 to \$108 per inmate in fiscal 1997.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Frederick, Somerset and Prince George's counties; cities of Greenbelt, Hagerstown, La Plata, Laurel and Sykesville; Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1996

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