

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 396 (Senator Pica, et al.)
Judicial Proceedings

Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report - Penalties

This bill makes it a misdemeanor for specified individuals required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to knowingly fail to make a report. Individuals who fail to provide the required notice or report are subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to bill's penalty provision.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures due to bill's penalty provision. Revenues would not be affected.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

State Expenditures: Although convictions under the bill's provisions would not result in incarceration, the Division of Correction (DOC) could experience an increase in commitments depending upon the increase in the reporting of child abuse or neglect cases and the conviction rate.

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 \$10 to \$48 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State owned facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1997 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

The DOC does not anticipate enough commitments to significantly impact expenditures.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase to the extent the bill results in increased commitments to local facilities from the reporting of child abuse or neglect cases. 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 \$19 to \$96 per inmate in fiscal 1997.

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

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