

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 247 (Baltimore County Delegation)
Judiciary

Baltimore County - District Court Facilities

This bill requires the District Court to have one judge sitting regularly in the Dundalk area and one in the Owings Mills area. Under current law this requirement would sunset on June 30, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures of approximately \$250,000 for the District Court locations in Dundalk and Owings Mills would continue indefinitely. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: State expenditures would be maintained because the bill requires continued operation of the District Court sites in the Dundalk and Owings Mills areas. In fiscal 1998, when this bill would take effect, rental and other charges related to the two sites will be approximately \$217,773.

The District Court plans to consolidate the Essex and Dundalk court sites in Essex, and the Owings Mills and Towson court sites in Towson. Each site has a principal supervisor. Consolidating the court locations would permit elimination of two of these positions, although they would have to be replaced with clerk positions. This could save an estimated \$30,306 in fiscal 1998.

Anticipated savings that would be lost by keeping these two sites open are as follows:

Rent and operating expenses	\$217,773
Downgrading of positions*	<u>30,306</u>
Total FY 1998 Expenditures	\$248,079

*The District Court plans to wait until these positions become vacant before downgrading them, so any resulting savings would depend upon when these positions are actually downgraded.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 1996
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