

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 548 (Senator Ferguson)
Judicial Proceedings

**Handguns - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting in Commission
of a Felony or Crime of Violence**

This bill makes it a separate misdemeanor to wear, carry, or transport a handgun or antique firearm in the commission of a felony or crime of violence. Under current law, use of a handgun or antique firearm in the commission of a felony is a separate misdemeanor. Violators are subject to applicable penalties, which are imposed in addition to any other sentence imposed for the commission of the felony or crime of violence.

For a first offense, violators are subject to a mandatory term of not less than five years and no more than 20 years imprisonment in the Division of Correction (DOC). Subsequent violators are subject to a mandatory term of not less than five years and no more than 20 years imprisonment in the DOC; however, the mandatory minimum sentence must be served consecutively and not concurrently to any other sentence imposed for commission of the felony or crime of violence.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures due to the applicable penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the applicable incarceration penalties due to more people being committed to a DOC facility, depending

upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Fiscal Services has no data with which to determine how many additional prosecutions and commitments could result from this bill.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1997 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,400.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 1996

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