

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 20 (Delegate Taylor, *et al.*)  
Judiciary

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Vehicle Laws - Eluding Police - Penalties

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This bill makes it a felony for a driver of a vehicle to attempt to elude a police officer on “fresh pursuit” and continue into another state. Upon conviction, violators are subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

This bill also increases the penalties for inflicting bodily injury on another while attempting to elude a police officer. The maximum fine goes from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and the maximum incarceration penalty goes from three to five years.

Penalties for attempts to elude police officers that result in the death of another person are also increased. The maximum fine goes from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the maximum incarceration penalty goes from five to ten years.

The bill gives the District Court concurrent jurisdiction over these offenses.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill’s penalty provisions.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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## 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:** General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalties due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility for longer periods of time, 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 1998, the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500.

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 1998 are estimated to range from \$12 to \$42 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1998 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

**Local Revenues:** Revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provisions, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's 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 \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

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

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