

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1020 (Delegates Genn and Hubbard)
Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Sheriffs' Fees

This amended bill increases the fees that sheriffs must collect for certain services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal revenue increase for the counties. No effect on expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: The fee increases are as follows:

- from \$30 to \$35 for service of a paper not including an execution or attachment;
- from \$30 to \$35 for service including an execution or attachment by taking into custody a person or seizing real or personal property; and
- from \$30 to \$35 for service of process papers arising out of an administrative agency proceeding where the party requesting the service is a nongovernmental entity.

Local Revenues: The counties expect to collect approximately \$6.5 million from sheriffs' fees in fiscal 1997. The bill increases the fees for serving specified papers by \$5 each; revenues thus would increase depending upon the number of papers served by the sheriffs. The impact would vary by jurisdiction, but it is assumed to be minimal. Howard County expects to collect an additional \$16,500 in fiscal 1998 from the increased

fees for serving summons and writs of execution. This represents a minimal increase over fiscal 1997 budgeted amounts of \$270,000. Montgomery County advises that it would collect an additional \$175,000 in fiscal 1998; it expects to collect \$1.0 million in fiscal 1997 from sheriffs' fees. Prince George's County expects to collect an additional \$155,000 in fiscal 1998, which amounts to a minimal increase over fiscal 1997's fees of \$2.3 million, excluding casino license fees. Talbot County estimates that revenues would increase by \$4,000 in fiscal 1998. The county collects approximately \$50,000 annually. Washington County advises that revenues would increase by \$7,500 in fiscal 1998. Annually, the county collects about \$70,000.

Small Business Effect: The bill increases the fees that sheriffs may collect for serving papers. In fiscal 1997 the counties expect to collect approximately \$6.5 million from these fees. To the extent that small businesses request service of papers on their behalf, their costs could increase. The increase would depend upon the number of papers served by the sheriffs. Although the number of papers served on behalf of small businesses is unknown, many would fall into that category.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Washington counties; Department of Fiscal Services

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