

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 252 (Delegate Branch, *et al.*)  
Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

---

**Drug-Related Offenses - Course of Conduct**

---

This amended bill prohibits a person from engaging in a “course of conduct” with the purpose of committing drug-related offenses. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and can be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or both.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill’s penalty provision as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** Minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill’s penalty provision as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

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

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase under the bill’s monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill’s incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less are sentenced to a local detention facility.

Persons sentenced to such a term in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in a DOC facility, with an average monthly cost estimated at \$1,500 for fiscal 1998. [The Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility, is used primarily for pretrial detentions. The per diem cost for BCDC in fiscal 1998 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.]

**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 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.

---

**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Baltimore City Detention Center), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 1997  
ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 1997

---

Analysis by: Lori Caldwell-Valentine  
Reviewed by: Paul Ballou

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 841-3710  
(301) 858-3710