

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 792 (Senators Trotter and Young)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Death Penalty - Jury Instructions**

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This bill requires a judge, on request of the defendant in a trial for first degree murder where the State seeks the death penalty, to instruct the jury that their decision must be made without regard to the race of the defendant or victim.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate. The extent to which this bill could affect the outcome of jury sentencing deliberations, and result in a measurable fiscal impact on State incarcerations and/or executions, is unknown. Requiring the courts to instruct a jury in this manner would not affect the finances of the Judiciary.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 1997

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