

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1353 (Delegates Valderrama and Vallario)
Judiciary

Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy - Final Report - Termination

This bill extends the date by which the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy is required to submit its final report to the General Assembly from September 30, 1997 to December 31, 1998. The bill also extends the termination date of the commission from September 30, 1997 to December 31, 1998.

This bill is effective July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$50,000 in FY 1998. Federal fund revenues could increase by \$150,000.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Federal Revenues: Under the Edward Byrne Memorial Grants program, states may receive discretionary and formula grants for numerous crime control purposes described under the Violence Crime Control and Enforcement Act of 1994. The states must provide a 25% cash match to the authorized award amount. In fiscal 1997, the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy received \$150,000 from the Byrne grant program.

State Expenditures: In fiscal 1997, the commission received \$50,000 in State general funds which was used as a cash match for Byrne Memorial Grant federal funds. The commission

used the \$150,000 in Byrne federal funds for commission meetings, for contractual staff to research and track other states sentencing guidelines, and for statistical analysis of current and future Maryland sentencing practices. Under the bill, the commission would function for another 18 months. General fund expenditures thus could increase by \$50,000. It is expected that the commission will once again use these funds as a cash match for \$150,000 in federal funding because it is assumed that the need for research and staff would continue through the bill's sunset date, December 31, 1998.

Information Source(s): Executive Department (Office of the Governor, Office of Crime Control and Prevention); Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 1997
ncs

Analysis by: Lori Caldwell-Valentine
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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