

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 55 (Delegate M. Burns)  
Judiciary

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**First Degree Murder - Death Penalty - Controlled Dangerous Substances**

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This bill authorizes the death penalty for first degree murder involving certain controlled dangerous substance offenses.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** The extent to which the additional aggravating circumstance provided by this bill would increase death penalty litigation is unclear. Accordingly, while it is conceivable that this bill could increase the workload and expenditures of the judicial system, including the Office of the Public Defender, any such increase cannot be reliably projected or quantified. In any event, the cost for the Public Defender to defend any additional death penalty cases arising from this bill is estimated to be \$50,000 per case.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Public Defender, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction)

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 16, 1997

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