

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 125 (Senator Forehand)
Judicial Proceedings

Juvenile Records - Use by Local Pretrial and Correctional Agencies

This bill provides access to juvenile records to a local pretrial agency for determining pretrial release or the assessment of an individual for community supervision. It also provides access to juvenile records to a local correctional agency for the assessment and classification of individuals. An adjudication and disposition of a child is admissible in court when a local pretrial agency is making recommendations to the court regarding pretrial release.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential increase in general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Any increase in expenditures is assumed to be minimal and can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Juvenile records are part of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Information System for Youth Services (ISYS) on-line system. ISYS was developed as a tracking system for juvenile offenders to support the processing of case referrals for delinquent behavior and is housed at the Annapolis Data Center.

State Expenditures: This bill could potentially increase the number of persons who do not get pretrial release. Persons who get pretrial detention in Baltimore City are held in the Baltimore City Detention Center, a State operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1998 is estimated at \$43 per inmate. Any increased costs are assumed to be minimal.

The bill would result in an increased volume of requests for access to juvenile records. To ensure that the clerks of the court are adequately staffed to meet the demand, the Administrative Office of the Courts advises that it would be desirable to add at least one new employee to each of the five largest jurisdictions in the State. Five additional Office Clerks would increase State general fund expenditures by an estimated \$125,000 on an annual basis.

Anne Arundel County advises, however, that the bill would have only minimal effect on the operations of the circuit court.

The Department of Fiscal Services advises that the need for additional positions depends upon the volume of requests in each jurisdiction, which cannot be reliably estimated at this time. It is possible that certain jurisdictions may require additional staff while others may not.

Any increase in expenditures for computer time to access the ISYS system is assumed to be minimal and can be handled with existing budgeted resources of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' Division of Pretrial Detention and Services.

Local Expenditures: This bill could potentially increase the number of persons who do not get pretrial release. Counties pay the full cost of pretrial detention. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

Any increase in expenditures for computer time to access the ISYS system is assumed to be minimal and can be handled with existing budgeted resources of local pretrial and correctional agencies.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Justice; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Baltimore City Detention Center, Pretrial Detention and Services); Dorchester, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties

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