

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 695 (Senator Colburn)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Caroline County - Prisoner Rehabilitation - Restitution Payments**

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This bill authorizes the Administrator of the Caroline County Detention Center to establish rehabilitation and training programs for inmates. The administrator may establish eligibility criteria for participation in the programs, and may reduce each participant's sentence by one day for each day the participant performs well in the programs. Any prisoner who violates the rules of the programs may (1) be removed from the programs; (2) have any earned diminution of sentence canceled; and (3) be prosecuted for willful failure to return to the detention center. Any costs for food, lodging, and clothing of participants are covered by each participant's earnings. Earnings may also be used to pay court ordered costs and fines, and other court ordered restitution payments.

A judge may order a convicted person to participate in these programs.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential indeterminate expenditure increase for Caroline County. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** Caroline County spends approximately \$975,000 annually on the detention center, which has an average daily population of 62 inmates. The daily capacity has recently been expanded to 125 inmates. The detention center currently offers various programs on a voluntary basis, including work release opportunities, GED services, and alcohol and drug

treatment programs. To the extent that the bill's provisions lead to the expansion of these programs, expenditures could increase. The increase would depend upon the scope of the rehabilitation and training programs and the number of inmates in the programs. The increase cannot be reliably estimated, but is not expected to significantly increase the detention center's per diem cost of \$53.

The county advises that the detention center would not withhold any participant's earnings in order to cover the costs of the programs. Although the bill authorizes the administrator of the detention center to reduce each participant's sentence by one day for each day a participant performs well in the programs, it would not significantly reduce the overall cost of incarceration at the center.

**Small Business Effect:** The Caroline County Detention Center has a daily population of 62 inmates. Due to a recent expansion, the daily capacity is now at 125 inmates. The bill authorizes the administrator to establish rehabilitation and training programs for inmates, including work release programs at private businesses. To the extent that small businesses participate in these programs, they could benefit from the work of inmates.

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**Information Source(s):** Caroline County, Department of Fiscal Services

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