

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 856 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Commerce and Government Matters

Prince George's County - Professional Correctional Officers - Police Power

PG 320-97

This bill authorizes the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections to appoint professional correctional officers who would have the power to make arrests without warrants. The Director, in consultation with the Police Training Commission, must adopt (1) requirements for education, training, human and public relations skills, and moral character that an applicant must possess in order to qualify as a professional correctional officer; and (2) performance standards. Any requirements adopted on or after October 1, 1997 do not affect the status of any officer who is employed on September 30, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Police and Correctional Training Commission could provide consultation to the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections with existing personnel.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate expenditure increase for Prince George's County. No effect on revenues.

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

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: The bill authorizes the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections to appoint professional correctional officers who would have police powers, including the power to make arrests without warrants. These officers must meet certain education, training, human relations, and moral character requirements. The number of officers that would receive such powers cannot be reliably estimated beforehand. However, if the Director appoints such officers, expenditures would increase due to additional training costs. Prince George's County advises that training costs would be approximately \$4,200 per officer for a physical and psychological examination, supplies, and safety equipment such as a bulletproof vest and firearm.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Police and Correctional Training Commission), Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 1997

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