

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1406 (Delegate Boston)
(Baltimore City Administration)

Judiciary

Crime Victims and Witnesses - Confidentiality of 911 Calls

This bill specifies that the identity, address, telephone number, or recorded voice of a person who calls a 911 emergency telephone system, a 311 police reporting telephone system, or a telephone number established by a law enforcement agency is confidential and may not be disclosed if the purpose of the call was to report a firearms-related crime or a drug-related crime. The bill provides certain exceptions. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and are subject to a fine up to \$500 and/or imprisonment up to 90 days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's monetary penalty provision. Potential increase in expenditures by the Judiciary due to procedural changes.

Local Effect: Minimal decrease in revenues, as discussed below. Potential minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill's incarceration penalty provision.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Clerks' offices may be required to develop a procedure to separate a 911 caller's personal information from a criminal file. This may involve sealed files or the creation of separate files. Any impact cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Local Effect: Localities that provide transcript tapes of emergency calls for a fee would

experience a decrease in revenues collected. For illustrative purposes, Baltimore City reports that revenues from requests for transcript tapes (\$80 each) could decrease by as much as \$15,000 annually.

Any training required for 911 personnel could be handled with existing resources.

Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998. Any increase is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Baltimore City; Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Prince George's, and Somerset counties; Department of State Police; Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 1997

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Analysis by: Sarah Dickerson

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710