

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 777 (Delegate Hubbard)
Economic Matters

Private Detectives - Training and Examination

This bill requires an applicant for certification as a private detective and an employee or applicant for employment with a private detective agency to complete at least 30 hours of training in a curriculum approved by the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) and pass an examination approved by the commission. The examination must be given by specified qualified individuals or institutions and a certificate must be issued to serve as a permanent record of completed training for the individual. The certificate must be filed with the Secretary within 90 days of issuance. This bill also requires a private detective agency to keep all employees' certificates on file and return them to the individual when employment ends.

The MPTC is required to work with the private detective industry in developing the curriculum. The bill also specifies that it will take effect on the date the curriculum is established and anyone certified on that date has one year to complete the training and exam requirements. If an individual does not submit a certificate of completion to the State Police by the end of that one-year period, the certificate of the individual is void and may not be renewed. These requirements do not apply to a "representative member" of the firm.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful impact on small business as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: There are approximately 480 licensed private detective firms in the State, the majority of which are small businesses. These firms employ approximately 13,000 private detectives. This bill would require all private detectives, employees or applicants for employment with a private detective agency to undergo at least 30 hours of training in a curriculum approved by the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) and pass an examination on that material in order to be certified as a private detective. According to the MPTC, the training course would cost approximately \$150 per person if they were to provide it. The training requirements provided in this bill could increase the cost of doing business and could create barriers to market entry for new small businesses. In addition, the record keeping requirements of this bill could minimally increase administrative costs for these businesses.

The training and examinations would be conducted by a certified private detective, a representative member of a private detective agency, or an institution approved by the MPTC. The MPTC anticipates that 80 private detectives will become certified instructors in the first year, and approximately 20 will become instructors each year thereafter. Depending upon the fees assessed by private instructors for the training and examination, the small businesses that provide these services could increase their revenue as a result of the bill.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland Police Training Commission

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