

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 169 (Senator Green, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Crimes - Threats Against State and Local Officials

This bill prohibits threats against an elected “local official”. Local official includes elected officers of a county, a municipality, a State created special district, a county created special district, or an office, board, or department that is established in each county under State law and that is funded partly by the county. Violators are subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 and/or imprisonment not exceeding three years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalties.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalties.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: General fund revenues could increase under the bill’s monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill’s incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs, depending upon the number of convictions and sentences imposed.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal

1998 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less are sentenced to a local detention facility. The State reimburses counties for part of their per diem rate after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 1998 are estimated to range from \$12 to \$42 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced in Baltimore City are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility. The per diem cost for fiscal 1998 is estimated at \$43 per inmate.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the circuit courts, depending upon the number of convictions and fines imposed.

Local Expenditures: 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 people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$23 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 1998.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Fiscal Services

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