

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 280 (Senator Stone)

(Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws)

Judicial Proceedings

Criminal Sentencing - Judicial Review Panels - Victim Notification

This bill alters the procedures used by judicial sentence review panels. Specifically, the bill: (1) requires a panel to hold a hearing prior to ordering a change of sentence; (2) requires a panel to provide notice to the parties and to any victim before a sentence may be changed; and (3) specifies rights and entitlements at panel hearings for the State, a defendant, a victim, and a victim's representative.

Under current law, a sentence may be increased, decreased, or left unchanged by a panel with or without a hearing. The bill specifies that only a decision for an unchanged sentence may be made without a hearing.

In addition, the bill provides that a sentence of life without parole may not be increased to death by a sentence review panel.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. The only additional direct costs for the State under these provisions would be limited to the cost of postage to notify the parties. The extent to which these changes may affect the outcome and finding of a sentence review panel cannot be reliably predicted, but is assumed to be minimal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Parole and Probation)

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