

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 661 (Delegate W. Baker. *et al.*)

Judiciary

**Executive Department - Pardons, Commutations, and Remissions of Sentences -
Notification**

This bill requires the Maryland Parole Commission to provide a specified public notification of recommendations to the Governor for pardons or sentence commutations or remittances. The notice is required to be made at least once in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county where the crime occurred and the victim, or the victim's representative, resides. The notice must be published within 30 days following the date of the recommendation.

In addition, the bill requires the Governor, at least 90 days before granting a pardon, commutation, or remission, to: (1) provide notice of the decision to the General Assembly; (2) publish notification in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county where the crime occurred and the victim, or the victim's representative, resides. The bill details the information that must be provided in the Governor's newspaper notice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal effect on expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: In 1997 the Parole Commission made 23 such recommendations to the Governor. There were 35 submitted in 1996, and 13 in 1995. Assuming that 1997 represents a typical or average year, Parole Commission expenditures could increase by approximately \$2,300 annually as a result of this bill. Actual costs will depend on the number of actual recommendations for each fiscal year.

The Governor's Office reports that all notices for pardons under existing constitutional requirements are placed in the Baltimore Sun at an average annual cost of approximately \$215. This bill is estimated to incur additional annual expenses of approximately \$300-\$500.

Information Source(s): Office of the Governor, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole Commission), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1998

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