

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 851 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Maryland Judicial Conference)

Judiciary

District Court Commissioners

This bill authorizes a District Court commissioner to exercise the powers of office in a county in another district that is contiguous to the county in which the commissioner resides, if so assigned by the Chief Judge of the District Court. A District Court commissioner may also exercise the powers of office in another county within the commissioner's district that is contiguous to the county in which the commissioner resides, if so assigned by an administrative commissioner.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Efficiency savings for law enforcement.

Local Effect: Efficiency savings for law enforcement.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: District Court commissioners determine probable cause for the issuance of charging documents, advise arrested persons of their constitutional rights, set bond, commit persons to jail in default of bond, and release persons on personal recognizance if appropriate.

State Effect: The bill will result in efficiency savings for the State Police and other State-funded law enforcement agencies, because it will provide for a larger selection of commissioners who can issue charging documents in a given jurisdiction. This change may have more of an impact in the more rural counties, which generally have fewer commissioners.

Local Effect: The bill will result in efficiency savings for local law enforcement agencies in the same manner as for State law enforcement agencies.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1998

tlw

Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710