

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 242 (Senator Stone)
(Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws)
Judicial Proceedings

Victims' Rights - Notification

This bill requires the notification by a State's Attorney to victims of crimes of the terms and conditions of any plea agreement and judicial action, if the victim has filed a specified notification request form. The circumstances under which the Attorney General is included within the definition of the term State's Attorney, in this subsection, is changed to be when performing a prosecutorial function at the trial level rather than at the appellate level.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: Indeterminate.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: The primary requirements of this bill fall on the operations of local State's Attorneys. The Office of the State's Attorneys' Coordinator reports that a limited survey of State's Attorneys' offices has resulted in a mixed opinion as to whether this bill could have significant fiscal impact on their operations. Two offices - one large and one mid-size - advised that the bill would result in significant fiscal impact. However, two other large offices advised that there would be no significant impact.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that this bill would be likely to increase clerical workloads and postage costs for State's Attorneys' offices. However, based on the

limited information provided by the State's Attorneys' Coordinator, the extent to which such an increased workload might result in a fiscal impact that could be characterized as "significant" for any individual office cannot be readily confirmed.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State's Attorneys' Coordinator, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 1998
nncs Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 1998

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