Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 512   (Senator Dvson)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Public Information Access - Board of Review - Creation

This bill makes the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board the State Open Meetings Law and Public Information Compliance Board. New duties of the board are to receive, review, and resolve complaints relating to access of public information from a unit of State Government, and to issue a written opinion as to whether a violation has occurred. Complaints may be filed with the board detailing the alleged violations of law regarding access to public information. The board is to forward the complaint to the State agency involved, and the agency must respond within 30 days. The board shall then review the complaint and response, and may hold an informal conference, before issuing a written opinion as to whether a violation of law has occurred. Opinions of the board are advisory, and may not require any actions by a State agency.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential expenditure increase of approximately $66,500 annually. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Office of the Attorney General advises that two attorneys and one secretary would be required for staff work associated with the expanded duties of the board, at an annual cost of about $130,000. The Department of Legislative Services advises that current staff should suffice; if experience demonstrates a substantially increased workload results from this expansion of duties, one attorney position and one-half a secretary position

should be added at an annual cost of approximately $66,500.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 1998
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