

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 592 (Senator Frv. *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation and Judicial Proceedings

Courts - Efficiency and Equity

This bill requires the State to fund interpreters for the circuit courts and to pay jurors expense money of \$5 per day. Authorizations shall be included in the State budget beginning in fiscal 2000 to pay these expenses.

A county is required to supplement the State per diem amount for jurors so that the total per diem amount and other expenses does not fall below the amount currently being paid to jurors by that county, unless the supplemental amount is modified by local ordinance.

The bill also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the Maryland State Bar Association and the Maryland Judicial Conference, to report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 15, 1998 on: (1) how to achieve greater uniformity among judicial masters within the circuit courts; and (2) how to achieve greater uniformity and standard qualifications for interpreters providing services in the District Court or the circuit courts, and on the process of selection and assignment of jurors in the circuit courts.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Increase in general fund expenditures of \$1.4 million beginning in FY 2000. No effect on revenues.

(in millions)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.4
Net Effect	(\$1.4)	(\$1.4)	(\$1.4)	(\$1.4)	(\$1.4)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: Collective decrease in annual expenditures comparable to the amount of increase in State general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The juror expense money to be paid by the State is estimated at \$1,200,068 for fiscal 2000. This amount is roughly equivalent to 1/3 of the total juror expense money paid annually by the circuit courts, because many jurisdictions pay jurors a per diem of \$15.

The cost for interpreters to be assumed by the State is estimated at \$216,000 for fiscal 2000. This amount is roughly equivalent to the total cost for interpreters paid by the circuit courts annually.

It is expected that the Administrative Office of the Courts could prepare the required report with existing resources.

Local Expenditures: Collective expenditures by the circuit courts would decrease by approximately the same amount annually as the increase in State expenditures.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Caroline, Howard, and Prince George's counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 1998
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