

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 753 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

Prince George's County - Landlord and Tenant - Service of Process
PG 303-98

This bill provides that in a summary ejectment action, service of process on a tenant in Prince George's County may be directed to any person authorized under the Maryland Rules to serve process. The Maryland Rules provide that service of process may generally be made by any legally competent person who is 18 or older and is not a party to the action. Service of process must be directed to the county sheriff under current law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential significant decrease in Prince George's County revenues and expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact on small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Revenues: Fees for service of summary ejectment papers in Prince George's County generate approximately \$2.0 million annually. County revenues would decrease to the extent that service of process is not directed to the county sheriff. Although any specific reduction cannot be reliably estimated at this time, it could be significant.

Local Expenditures: Any reduction in revenues could be partially offset by a reduction in expenditures for the county sheriff due to reduced staffing needs. While this expenditure reduction cannot be reliably estimated at this time, it could be significant.

Small Business Effect: Small process service businesses would gain business to the extent that they are called upon more frequently to serve process in summary eviction proceedings as a result of this bill. Landlords could save money if they could arrange service of process for lower fees than charged by the sheriff.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 1998

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