Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 174   (Delegate Bissett)

Judiciary and Appropriations

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Private Women's Correctional Facility

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to enter into a contract with a private entity to construct, lease, operate, acquire, improve, manage, purchase, or maintain a private women's correctional facility or to supervise the inmates in a women's correctional facility. The bill provides that DPSCS may enter into such a contract only if it offers demonstrable benefits to the department and provides the same quality of inmate services.

The initial contract for the operation of a women's correctional facility may be for not more than seven years with an option to renew every three years thereafter. A contract to purchase or lease a women's correctional facility may not exceed 30 years. The bill specifies other pertinent details of such a contract. DPSCS is required to adopt regulations to carry out these provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate. Any costs and/or benefits that may accrue from a future contract cannot be reliably predicted. For informational purposes, the estimated cost of operating the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in FY 1999, excluding capital costs, is $15.1 million.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Indeterminate. It is assumed that the prime contract for operating a women's prison would not be obtained by a small business. However, the extent to which smaller related subcontracts may benefit a variety of small businesses cannot be reliably predicted.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

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