

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 274 (Delegates Vallario and R. Baker)
Judiciary

Criminal Procedure - Service of Process

This bill expands the locations within which designated employees of local detention centers may serve criminal process. Under current law, an administrator of a local detention center may designate employees to serve criminal summonses, warrants, and charging documents within the detention center. The bill adds any police facility or central or regional booking site as locations within which designated employees can serve process.

The bill takes effect June 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any additional workload and/or training for State corrections personnel could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Efficiency savings for local law enforcement agencies. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Corrections employees are used at booking sites and other police facilities. These workers are local government employees, except in the case of Baltimore City Detention Center, where the employees are paid by the State. When an arrestee is brought in, inquiry is made as to whether there are any other outstanding warrants for the person involving separate charges. Currently, if there is such a warrant, process must be served on the arrestee by a police officer, because corrections employees are not authorized to serve criminal process outside a detention center. This means that either the arresting officer must wait until after the inquiry is performed, or another officer must be called in. This bill would

allow corrections employees to serve process, eliminating the need to take police officers away from their other duties to perform this function.

Any additional workload and/or training for corrections employees could be handled with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Pretrial Detention and Services), Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 1998
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