

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 434 (Delegate Schisler. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Caroline County - Prisoner Training and Rehabilitation Programs

This emergency bill authorizes the superintendent of detention facilities in Caroline County to establish inmate training and rehabilitation programs, including educational programs in a county detention facility and work release.

The bill's provisions are applied only to individuals sentenced to imprisonment at the Caroline County Detention Center after the bill's effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that any potential increase in the collection of fines and/or court costs resulting from this bill would not significantly affect State revenues.

Local Effect: Minimal. This bill primarily clarifies the existing authority of the superintendent. To the extent that diminution credits may slightly increase under this bill, county detention costs could nominally decrease. However, the Caroline County Department of Corrections advises that such a change would not affect operational costs. It is assumed that any potential increase in the collection of fines and/or court costs resulting from this bill would not significantly affect local revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies the authority of the superintendent relative to inmate training programs and work release. The bill provides a specified methodology for calculating diminution credits for performance and progress. The superintendent is authorized to adopt regulations to implement these provisions, including regulations that address: (1) removal from a program; (2) cancellation of diminution credits; and (3) prosecutions for escape.

For the work release program, the administrator is required to collect each participants total earnings, less payroll deductions. From those earnings, the administrator is required to: (1) pay the cost to the county of providing food, lodging, and clothing; (2) make court-ordered payments to dependants; (3) pay court-ordered costs, fines, and restitution; (4) make repayment to the State for court-appointed counsel; and (5) make court-ordered repayment to the State for the services of the Public Defender. Any balance must be credited to an account held by the administrator for the participant. Any balance amounts remaining in those accounts: (1) may be disposed of as requested by the participant, if approved by the administrator; and (2) must be paid to the participant upon release from the detention facility.

When a person is convicted in the county of a crime for which the court may assess a fine and/or court costs, a judge is authorized to require the defendant to participate in a work program in order to satisfy the penalty. A participant must receive a credit of at least the federal minimum wage per hour toward the original fine and court costs imposed.

Information Source(s): Caroline County (Department of Corrections), Department of Legislative Services

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