

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 485 (Delegate Marriott. *et al.*)

Judiciary

**Baltimore City Charter Amendment - Baltimore City Police Department - Citizens'
Review Board**

This bill adds a new section to Article II of the Charter of Baltimore City to authorize the Mayor and City Council to establish by ordinance a Citizens' Review Board of the Baltimore City Police Department to examine complaints of alleged misconduct by police officers. Based on its own investigative findings, the board is authorized to make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and chief of police on the appropriate disposition of a complaint. The bill prohibits any review, investigation, or recommendation of the board from limiting or being inconsistent with the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights or any other provisions of State law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate effect on Baltimore City finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: This bill authorizes the Mayor and City Council to establish a review board by ordinance. It requires the ordinance to establish the membership of the board, as well as its duties and procedures.

Baltimore City advises that expenditures for the board could be significant. The City assumes that the board would require clerical staff, investigators, a supervisor, as well as office supplies and equipment. However, the City also advises that any additional costs cannot be quantified until the board's membership, duties, and procedures are actually established. The bill does not specify whether the board's budget would be a part of the Baltimore City Police Department's budget or independent of that department.

It should be noted that this bill does not eliminate the current provision in the Public Local Laws of Baltimore City that provides for the Complaint Evaluation Board (CEB) as a permanent, statutory agency. The CEB evaluates "complaints lodged by members of the general public regarding alleged acts of discourtesy and excessive force" by police officers. The costs of operating the CEB are handled with the budgeted resources of the participating members of the CEB. The City does not provide the CEB with a separate budget allotment.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1998

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