

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 555 (Senator Colburn. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Governor - Notice of Commutation, Reprieve, or Pardon

This bill adds notification and reporting requirements to constitutional and statutory provisions that empower and authorize the Governor to commute or change a death sentence into penal confinement, to pardon any person, or to remit any part of a sentence. Specifically, the bill requires the Governor to: (1) provide at least 90 days prior notice, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the offense occurred, of the intent to exercise this authority; (2) provide at least 10 days prior notice of the action to the General Assembly; and (3) within 10 days after such an action, report to the General Assembly on the petitions, recommendations, and reasons that influenced the decision to exercise this authority. Granting a reprieve from an execution is exempted from the prior notification requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The additional annual costs for the Office of the Governor resulting from this bill are estimated at approximately \$300. It is assumed that this impact is small enough that it could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Governor, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 1998

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