

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 346 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Maryland Judicial Conference)

Judicial Proceedings

Criminal Procedure - Search Warrants - Territorial Jurisdictional Limits

This bill repeals the requirement that the place or thing to be searched pursuant to a search warrant be located within the territorial jurisdiction of the judge issuing the warrant. Under current law, circuit court judges can generally only issue search warrants for property within their jurisdictions. In contrast, because the District Court is a unified system, District Court judges can issue warrants for anywhere in the State. The bill would give circuit court judges and District Court judges equal power to issue search warrants.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Efficiency savings for law enforcement.

Local Effect: Efficiency savings for law enforcement.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The bill will result in efficiency savings for the State Police and other State-funded law enforcement agencies, because it will provide for a larger selection of judges who can issue search warrants statewide. This change will have more of an impact in the more rural counties, which have fewer judges.

Local Effect: The bill will result in efficiency savings for local law enforcement agencies, because it will provide for a larger selection of judges who can issue search warrants statewide. This change will have more of an impact in the more rural counties, which have fewer judges.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Public Defender, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1998

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