

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 577 (Senator Hughes. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City - Complaints Against Police Officers - Citizen Review Board

This bill authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to create a citizen review board through which the general public may file complaints against City police officers, and by which such complaints may be evaluated and resolved. The membership and powers of the board, as well as the complaint review process, are required to be provided for by the Mayor and City Council. The bill grants subpoena powers to the review board.

In addition, the bill eliminates the current Complaint Evaluation Board of Baltimore City, a permanent, statutory City agency that handles complaints against the police department alleging discourtesy or excessive force.

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 the review board as an agency of City government. The Mayor and City Council are required to provide for the membership and powers of the board, as well as the complaint review process.

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, powers, and processes are actually

established.

This bill also eliminates the current Complaint Evaluation Board (CEB). 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.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that the City provided no information on the number of complaints annually lodged with the CEB, nor any projections of complaints that might be filed under the citizen review board created by this bill. Accordingly, the amount of additional resources, if any, that could be needed under this bill cannot be reliably estimated.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 1998

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