

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 598 (Delegate Genn. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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**Robbery and Robbery With a Deadly Weapon - Maximum Sentence**

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This bill increases the maximum penalties for robbery and robbery with a deadly weapon. Specifically, the maximum incarceration penalty for robbery is increased from 15 to 20 years; and the maximum incarceration penalty for robbery with a dangerous or deadly weapon or accessory is increased from 20 to 25 years.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures due to the bill's increased incarceration penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's increased incarceration penalties due to convicted offenders being committed to a Division of Correction (DOC) facility for longer periods of time.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in a DOC facility. In fiscal 1999 the average monthly cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,500. For illustrative purposes, under the bill's increased maximum incarceration penalty for robbery the average time served would be 120 months rather than 90 months; and under the bill's increased maximum incarceration penalty for robbery with a deadly weapon the average time served would be 150 months rather than 120 months. Thus State costs could increase by \$45,000 for each person imprisoned under the bill for either offense.

In 1997, DOC received 398 inmates convicted of robbery; in 311 of those cases robbery was the most serious offense and the average sentence 61.9 months. DOC also received, in 1997, 493 inmates convicted of robbery with a deadly weapon; in 430 of those cases it was the most serious offense and the average sentence was 125 months.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,  
Department of Legislative Services

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