

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1248 (Delegate Bobo. *et al.*)

Commerce & Government Matters

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Legislative Ethics - Advisory Services and Disclosure

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This bill requires the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to jointly appoint an attorney to serve as counsel to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics. The counsel will be required to: (1) devote full time to the duties of the committee; (2) advise members of the General Assembly regarding the requirements of any applicable ethics law or rule; (3) assist members in preparing statements and reports that are required to be filed with the committee; and (4) carry out any other function related to legislative ethics.

The bill also requires the State Ethics Commission to forward to the committee copies of each financial disclosure statement filed by members of the General Assembly. The committee may charge a fee and adopt administrative procedures for the examination and copying of a statement. The committee must maintain a record of the name and address of each individual who examines or copies a statement and the name of the member whose statement was examined or copied. The committee must notify the member whose statement is examined or copied.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$76,700 in FY 1999; future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. The House of Delegates has included \$97,000 in the FY 1999 budget to create the counsel position, contingent upon enactment of this bill. General fund revenues could increase by a minimal amount.

(in dollars)	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
GF Revenues	--	--	--	--	--
GF Expenditures	\$76,700	\$89,300	\$92,400	\$95,600	\$99,000
Net Effect	(\$76,700)	(\$89,300)	(\$92,400)	(\$95,600)	(\$99,000)

Note: ( ) - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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### Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$76,720 in fiscal 1999, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1998 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of one attorney to serve as counsel to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$64,650
One-Time Start-Up Costs	10,026
Operating Expenses	<u>2,044</u>
<b>Total FY 1999 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$76,720</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

**State Revenues:** The bill allows the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics to charge a reasonable fee for the examination and copying of a financial disclosure statement filed by a member of the General Assembly. Any increase in general fund revenue due to such fees is assumed to be minimal.

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**Information Source(s):** State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 1998  
lc Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 1998

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