

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1029 (Delegate D. Murphv)

Judiciary

Division of Correction - Inmates - Use of Telephone

This bill prohibits an inmate in a Division of Correction (DOC) facility, without prior authorization, from making a telephone call unless the recipient of the call has indicated approval to receive calls from that inmate. The bill limits the number of recipients who may be called by an inmate to 10. A prisoner who violates this provision is subject to the loss of diminution credits or other disciplinary action as may be permitted.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate decrease in special fund revenue. Potential minimal expenditure increases.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: In fiscal 1998, DOC began phasing-in the provisions of this bill. DOC piloted the Inmate Personal Identification Number (IPIN) program at the Eastern Regional facility in the summer of 1997, which limited to 10 the number of call recipients per inmate who may give prior approval for inmate calls. The facility experienced lost revenue of approximately \$281,000. This decrease was more than expected, and revenue recovery has been slow.

Installation of the program at Hagerstown, and all other institutions using the automated collect call telephones, is not expected to experience a revenue loss of comparable magnitude. However, statutorily setting the limit of call recipients at 10 for all facilities, as is

provided under this bill, would limit programmatic flexibility and could lead to similar unanticipated revenue losses.

The extent to which loss of diminution credits (or other disciplinary actions) due to violations of these provisions may affect lengths of term and incarceration costs cannot be reliably estimated. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

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

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Inc

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