

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 329 (Senator Middlebrooks)

Judicial Proceedings

Child Abuse - Death of a Child - Penalties

This bill increases, from 20 to 30 years, the maximum incarceration penalty for persons convicted of felony child abuse if the crime results in the death of the victim.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: This bill increases the maximum incarceration penalty for persons convicted of felony child abuse if the crime results in the death of the victim. Accordingly, general fund expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's application of increased incarceration penalties due to people 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 \$1,600. For illustrative purposes, under the new maximum incarceration penalty for this crime the average time served would be 180 months, rather than 120 months as the average time served under current law. Thus State costs could increase by \$90,000 for each person imprisoned under the bill.

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

of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - February 25, 1998

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Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 1998

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:

Reviewed by: John Rixey

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710