

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 450 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee. *et al.*)
(Departmental - Military)
Commerce & Government Matters

Militia

This departmental bill makes various changes to the statute governing the militia in the State, as follows: (1) allows the Adjutant General to appoint individuals to specified positions; (2) alters the criteria for appointment to the positions of Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, and Assistant Adjutant General for Air; (3) stipulates that the Adjutant General is a member of the Governor's cabinet; and (4) expands the eligibility of Maryland National Guard members for tuition assistance. The bill makes other corrective and clarifying changes and deletes obsolete language.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's changes are not expected to materially affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Military Department has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The bill is largely corrective and clarifying in nature, although, there are some procedural and substantive changes that are not expected to materially affect the revenues or expenditures of the Military Department. The bill authorizes the Adjutant General to appoint an executive officer; a grants administrator; the directors of military installations, procurement, military support to civil authorities, State personnel, administration (finance),

and veterans affairs; and the site managers for military reservations. These employees are currently hired through the State's normal hiring process. Allowing them to be special appointees could affect future labor costs for such employees. The magnitude and direction of any potential impact on personnel costs cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but is assumed to be minimal. Additionally, altering the criteria for appointment to certain positions will not affect the salaries of those positions.

The bill also stipulates that the Adjutant General is a member of the Governor's cabinet. This codifies existing practice as the Adjutant General regularly attends cabinet meetings. This will not affect expenses related to the salary or duties of the Adjutant General.

Additionally, the bill expands the eligibility pool for tuition assistance by allowing Maryland National Guard members that attend private colleges and universities to receive aid if the institution also offers a 50% waiver to guard members. The bill would also make tuition assistance available to officers in the rank of major. Applicants for tuition assistance would still be subject to the availability of budgeted funds and certain departmental priorities. Budgets in future years may increase to meet a demand created by the expanded eligibility parameters. Any such increase cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Information Source(s): Military Department, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 1999

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