

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 430 (Senator Ruben. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic Violations

This bill establishes a 12-member Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic Violations. The task force is charged with studying a variety of areas and issues relating to routine traffic stops, including the identifying characteristics of individuals stopped, whether arrests were made as a result of the stop, and the benefit of traffic stops to drug interdiction efforts. The bill also places specified limitations on the acquisition and use of data acquired by the task force. Staffing for the task force will be provided by the Office of the Attorney General. The bill requires the task force to report the results of its study to the Governor by October 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Task force members would be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. Any such expenditures would depend upon the time, location, and frequency of the task force's meetings. Expenses are assumed to be minimal and able to be handled with existing resources of the entities represented on the task force. Staffing responsibilities can be handled within the existing budgeted resources of the Office of the Attorney General.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Additional Comments: The Department of State Police believes that this bill will result in the need for a significant amount of additional resources for the State Police and local police agencies in order to comply with quantitative requests for data by the task force. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General notes that the bill is somewhat vague regarding how the task force would proceed.

However, Legislative Services advises that any methodologies, including sampling, employed by this task force (like all others) will not be determined until it begins operations. In any event, it is assumed that any selected methodology would be designed to accommodate the existing budgeted resources of the agencies from which the task force would seek information and within allotted staffing resources.

Information Source(s): Office of the Governor, Office of the Attorney General, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 1999
Inc/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 1999

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510