

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 610 (Senator Ferguson. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Sexual Offenses - Registrants - Listing on Internet

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to post on the Internet a current listing of each person who is registered with the department as an offender, child sexual offender, sexually violent offender, or sexually violent predator. Such a listing would have to include each registrant's name, offense, and other identifying information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: If DPSCS posts this information on the Internet, one-time computer related expenditures could increase by up to \$200,000.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. However, if DPSCS chose, in the future, to provide a more elaborate website listing (as described below), this bill could provide a significant small business opportunity for providers of such software and services.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: If DPSCS chose to design and implement such a posting in the future, it is assumed that it could be incorporated into its already existent website. The cost of the additional listing would depend upon whether the site were a simple listing of names, offenses, and limited identifying information, which could be accommodated with existing resources; or whether the agency chose to include such things as a linkage to a live data base or pictures, which could probably not be handled with existing resources.

The Information and Technologies Division believes that future consideration of Internet use

under the provisions of this bill would have to take into account security, interfaces, accuracy, and timeliness concerns, as well as appropriateness under federal operations and mandates that may be in place at that time. The division assumes that if all such questions are answered, posting Maryland's registry on the Internet would require a stand-alone system and a new server separate from their current webpage. The division estimates that such a future cost could be approximately \$200,000.

DPSCS has no immediate plans to post this registry on the Internet. Currently, there are 500 registrants on the list, which is available to individuals or groups upon submission of a written request to the department.

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

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