

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 531 (Delegate W. Baker. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Crimes - Pardons, Commutations, and Other Acts of Clemency - Notification

This bill requires the Maryland Parole Commission to provide a specified public notification of recommendations to the Governor for pardons, sentence commutations, or any other act of clemency. The notice is required to be made at least once in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in the county where the crime occurred and the victim, or the victim's representative, resides. The notice must be published within 30 days following the date of the recommendation.

In addition, the bill requires the Governor, at least 90 days before granting a pardon, commutation, or other act of clemency, to: (1) provide notice of the decision to the General Assembly; (2) publish notification in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in the county where the crime occurred and the victim, or the victim's representative, resides. The bill details the information that must be provided in the Governor's newspaper notice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal effect on expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: In 1998 the Parole Commission made 22 such recommendations to the Governor. There were 23 submitted in 1997, 35 in 1996, and 13 in 1995. Assuming that 1998 represents a typical or average year, the Parole Commission's expenditures could increase by approximately \$2,200 annually as a result of this bill. Actual costs will depend on the number of actual recommendations for each fiscal year.

The Governor's Office reports that all notices for pardons under existing constitutional requirements are placed in the Baltimore Sun at an average annual cost of approximately \$215. This bill is estimated to incur additional annual expenses of approximately \$300-\$500.

Information Source(s): Office of the Governor, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole Commission), Department of Legislative Services

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dmm/jr

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