

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 711 (Delegate Owings, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Crimes - Cruelty to Animals - Animals Used by a Law Enforcement Unit

This bill prohibits a person from intentionally inflicting bodily harm, disability, or death on an animal used by a law enforcement unit. An exception is made for cases of self-defense. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for 3 years. A court is authorized to order a person convicted of this offense to participate in psychological counseling, as a condition of sentence, to be paid for by the offender.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the bill's applicable penalty provisions.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the bill's applicable penalty provisions.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the District Court.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to Division of Correction (DOC) facilities and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is expected to be minimal.

Persons serving a sentence longer than one year are incarcerated in DOC facilities.

Currently, the average total cost per inmate, including overhead, is estimated at \$1,600 per month. This bill alone, however, should not create the need for additional beds, personnel, or facilities. The average variable cost of housing a new DOC inmate (food, medical care, etc.), excluding overhead, is \$275 per month.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less in a jurisdiction other than Baltimore City are sentenced to local detention facilities. The State reimburses counties for part of their incarceration costs, on a per diem basis, after a person has served 90 days. State per diem reimbursements for fiscal 2000 are estimated to range from \$8 to \$48 per inmate depending upon the jurisdiction. Persons sentenced to such a term in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in DOC facilities. The Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), a State operated facility, is used primarily for pretrial detentions.

Local Revenues: Revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the circuit courts.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for people in their facilities for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$15 to \$80 per inmate in fiscal 2000.

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

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