

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1141 (Delegate Burns)

Judiciary

Crimes - Destruction of Cemetery Structures - Penalties

This bill increases the maximum penalties for a specified misdemeanor relating to the destruction of cemetery structures from a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for three years to a fine of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for six years.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's increased 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 increased incarceration penalty due to people being committed to Division of Correction (DOC) facilities for longer periods of time 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. For illustrative purposes, under the current law maximum incarceration penalty the average time served would be 18 months. Under the bill's increased maximum incarceration penalty the average time served would be 36 months. Assuming the variable inmate costs of \$275 per month, State costs could increase by \$4,950 for each person imprisoned under the bill.

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 increased monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the circuit courts.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's increased 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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ncs/jr

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