

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 61 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental - Public Safety and Correctional Services)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Alcohol Abuse and Drug Abuse Treatment - Inmates

This departmental bill provides that an eligible inmate in a State correctional facility who refuses to participate in an appropriate alcohol and drug abuse treatment program is subject to the sanctions that may be imposed upon any inmate who refuses to participate in any mandatory program. The bill provides that a written consent for treatment is valid regardless of whether a potential sanction may be imposed when a State inmate refuses to participate. However, the bill also provides that the revocation of diminution credits for a failure to participate in a treatment program may only occur for the time period during which the inmate refused participation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in incarceration costs. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although the sanctions that could be imposed under the provisions of this bill would primarily involve the loss of diminution credits, it is expected that any such losses (and attendant longer terms of incarceration) would occur infrequently and, therefore, minimally affect State corrections costs.

Currently, the average total cost per inmate is estimated at \$1,600 per month. However, the average variable cost of housing a new inmate (food, medical care, etc. but not costs for

additional personnel or building maintenance) is \$275 per month.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 14, 1999

dmm/ir Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 14, 1999

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