

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1082 (Delegate Heller)
(Chairman, Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds)

Judiciary

State Insurance Program - Maryland Tort Claims Act - State's Attorneys, Certain Local Board Members, and Certain Judges

This bill provides that the counties and Baltimore City may obtain insurance coverage and be assessed for insurance coverage for claims under the Maryland Tort Claims Act against: (1) State's Attorneys and their employees; (2) members and employees of boards of license commissioners; (3) employees of liquor control boards; (4) members and employees of boards of supervisors of elections; (5) judges of circuit courts and their employees; and (6) orphans' court judges and their employees. Under current law these employees are included in the definition of "State personnel" for purposes of protection under the Maryland Tort Claims Act.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill generally codifies existing practice.

Local Effect: Minimal expenditure increase. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: With the exception of a few counties, premiums are currently paid for these employees for coverage under the Maryland Tort Claims Act. Local governments that have not paid the premiums will be required to pay \$14 a year for each employee. Any increase in expenditures for these counties will be minimal. The Treasurer's Office advises that future premiums could increase to offset losses incurred for these employees. Any future increases

are assumed to be minimal as tort claims against these employees are uncommon.

Information Source(s): Treasurer's Office, Local Government Insurance Trust, Carroll County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Baltimore City

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 1999

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