

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 773 (Delegate Zirkin. *et al.*)

Judiciary

---

**Prospective Jurors - Primary Source - Motor Vehicle Administration Lists**

---

This bill requires circuit courts to select the names of prospective jurors from the lists of individuals at least 18 years old who have been issued a driver's license or identification card by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), and from additional sources permitted by a juror selection plan. The MVA must provide the lists of names to the circuit courts without cost. Currently, circuit courts are required to select jurors from voter registration lists and additional sources permitted by a juror selection plan.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2000.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential decrease in general fund expenditures of approximately \$8,000 annually. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal decreases in expenditures for Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Howard, Somerset, and Worcester counties. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. A small computer services company could lose business if counties discontinue use of voting lists to help choose jurors pursuant to the bill.

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** It is expected that the MVA could supply lists to the circuit courts using existing resources.

**Local Expenditures:** In most jurisdictions, the jury system is part of the local circuit court budget, with county employees performing the jury management functions. The use of MVA

lists would create the need to send qualification questionnaires in order to eliminate persons who may appear on MVA lists but are not qualified for jury service, such as convicted felons and non-citizens. It is expected that this work could be done by the counties using existing resources.

Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, Dorchester County, Howard County, Somerset County, and Worcester County currently use MVA lists in conjunction with voting lists to create their jury pools. Each of these jurisdictions other than Baltimore City receives a computerized list of names from the MVA and sends that list, along with a list of its registered voters, to a computer services company. That company then merges the lists and eliminates duplicate names. In some cases, the company provides additional services such as creating qualification questionnaires and other forms, refining lists, and “scrambling” names on lists. Baltimore City’s merge process is performed (and paid for) by the State.

The annual cost for this type of service generally ranges from approximately \$700 for a small county to approximately \$8,000 for Baltimore City. These counties, and the State in the case of Baltimore City, could eliminate the merge service expense by choosing to only use MVA lists pursuant to the bill. Other counties that choose to use voting lists or other sources in conjunction with MVA lists could incur merge service costs.

---

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Information Systems); Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration); Baltimore City; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Dorchester, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Somerset, Washington, and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 1999

dmm/jr

---

Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510