

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 544 (Senators Colburn and Baker)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Governor - Notice of Commutation, Reprieve, or Pardon**

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This bill adds notification and reporting requirements to constitutional and statutory provisions that empower and authorize the Governor to commute or change a death sentence into penal confinement, to pardon any person, or to remit any part of a sentence. Specifically, the bill requires the Governor to: (1) provide at least 90 days prior notice, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the offense occurred, of the intent to exercise this authority; (2) provide at least 10 days prior notice of the action to the General Assembly; and (3) within 10 days after such an action, report to the General Assembly on the petitions, recommendations, and reasons that influenced the decision to exercise this authority. Granting a reprieve from an execution is exempted from the prior notification requirements.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The additional annual costs for the Office of the Governor resulting from this bill are estimated at approximately \$300. It is assumed that this impact is small enough that it could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Information Source(s):** Office of the Governor, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 1999

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