

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 496 (Delegate Dewberry, *et al.*)

Judiciary

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Assisted Suicide - Prohibition

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This bill provides that any person who knowingly assists another person's suicide or suicide attempt is guilty of a felony, and subject to a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund expenditures due to the bill's penalty provisions. No effect on revenues.

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

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to Division of Correction (DOC) facilities and increased payments to counties for reimbursement of inmate costs. It is expected that the number of people convicted of this proposed crime would not be significant.

Persons serving a sentence of one year or less in a jurisdiction other than Baltimore City are sentenced to a local detention facility. 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 a term of one year or less in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in a DOC facility. Currently, the DOC average total cost per inmate, including overhead, is estimated at \$1,600 per month. It is not expected that this legislation will create the need for additional beds, personnel, or facilities, however. The average cost of housing a new DOC inmate, excluding overhead (food, medical care, etc.), is approximately \$275 per month.

**Local Revenues:** Criminal cases brought pursuant to the bill would be filed in circuit court. Circuit court revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provision.

**Local Expenditures:** The bill is not expected to materially increase court caseloads.

Expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's 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.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 1999  
mld/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 1999

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