

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 926 (Delegate Crvor. *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

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Creation of Website for Critically Missing Individuals

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This bill requires the Department of State Police to create a website for “critically missing individuals.”

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures for personnel, computer equipment, and computer consultants would increase by \$204,500 in FY 2000 (including both ongoing and one-time expenditures). FY 2001 ongoing expenditures would increase by \$157,600, increasing slightly thereafter to reflect assumed growth in personnel and contractual expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	204,500	157,600	161,200	164,900	168,800
Net Effect	(\$204,500)	(\$157,600)	(\$161,200)	(\$164,900)	(\$168,800)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** Minimal or no impact on local law enforcement expenditures to obtain any necessary waivers and provide the State Police with the information for the website, potentially offset by reduced expenditures if the website assists in locating individuals that would otherwise continue to be sought by local law enforcement officers.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## **Fiscal Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Critically missing individuals are defined to include certain missing children and adults. The website would include information reported to the State Police on the last known sighting of the individual, a current photograph of the individual, and any other material the department determines to be in the public interest. Parents or guardians of a critically missing individual must sign a waiver and provide a photograph before the information can be posted.

Local law enforcement units are required to notify the State Police immediately after receiving a report of a critically missing individual. Within 72 hours of receipt of the waiver, the State Police must make the information available on the website. The website must be continuously available and must have daily postings and be continuously updated. The State Police must be notified immediately (presumably by the local law enforcement unit) after the critically missing individual has been located. The material posted on the website may not be used for any commercial purpose; a person who violates that restriction is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation.

**State Revenues:** The civil penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect State revenues.

**State Expenditures:** In calendar 1999, the Maryland Center for Missing Children entered 14,658 missing children into the National Crime Information Center database. Though the number of critically missing children subject to this bill would presumably be smaller, the bill also includes certain missing adults. The Department of State Police advises that it would take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to enter information for each critically missing individual.

The department advises that it would require two additional permanent civilian positions to enter the information on the website. If these employees were hired at Grade 13 (base), then personnel expenditures (including fringe benefits) would increase by approximately \$56,200 in fiscal 2000, based on the October 1 effective date. Personnel expenditures would increase in fiscal 2001 to \$75,400 based on annualization, 3% turnover, and 3.5% salary increases. The two new positions would require additional computer equipment, office equipment, and high-speed internet access.

In addition, the department advises that it would procure the services of an outside computer consultant to set up the website (at a one-time cost of \$65,000) and maintain the website and keep it technologically up-to-date (at a cost of \$78,000 annually).

In total, additional expenditures to implement the bill are estimated at \$204,500 in fiscal

2000, declining to \$157,600 in fiscal 2001 and increasing each year thereafter based on growth in personnel and contractual services expenditures.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 1999

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