

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 787 (Delegate Gettv)

Judiciary

Maryland Crime Laboratory Council

This bill creates a 15-member Maryland Crime Laboratory Council in the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The bill specifies the council’s duties relating to monitoring crime laboratory services, technology, equipment, and training. The council is required to study the feasibility of consolidating all the crime laboratories in the State into one statewide crime laboratory.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$80,800 in FY 2000. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	80,800	102,500	106,200	110,000	114,000
Net Effect	(\$80,800)	(\$102,500)	(\$106,200)	(\$110,000)	(\$114,000)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: There are currently eight State or local crime laboratories in Maryland operated by the following entities: (1) State Police; (2) Baltimore City; (3) Baltimore County; (4) Anne Arundel County; (5) Prince George’s County; (6) Montgomery County; (7) Hagerstown; and (8) Ocean City. The bill also includes the State Medical Examiner’s Office under the definition of crime laboratory.

The local laboratories provide a range of forensic services from drug analysis to full forensic services (including DNA testing currently in Baltimore County, with capabilities being developed in Prince George’s County). The State Police Crime Laboratory does a full range of forensic services, including DNA testing, and is the central repository for DNA samples under Maryland’s sexual offender statutes.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention could increase by an estimated \$80,787 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 1999 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one administrator to establish a monitoring system for crime laboratories, as well as coordinate meetings and other activities for the Crime Laboratory Council, and one administrative specialist as support staff and to be responsible for actual data collections. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$73,747
Operating Expenses	<u>7,040</u>
Total FY 2000 State Expenditures	\$80,787

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Council members would be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. Any such expenditures would depend upon the time, location, and frequency of the task force’s meetings. Expenses are assumed to be minimal and able to be handled with existing resources of the entities represented on the task force.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts, The District Court), Maryland State Police, Department of Legislative Services (Office of Legislative Audits)

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1999
mld/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 1999
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