

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 97 (Senator Astle)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Juvenile Justice - Probation Violations - Suspension of Driving Privilege**

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This bill requires the Secretary of Juvenile Justice to establish procedures to administer random or periodic drug and alcohol tests that juveniles who are placed on probation are required to undergo as a condition of probation. If a child fails to submit to the required testing or fails 2 or more alcohol or drug tests during the probationary period, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) must report the child to the court, which in turn must hold a hearing on the matter. If the court finds that a child has violated probation, the court must order the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the child's driving privileges for between 30 and 90 days, inclusive, for a first probation violation, and for 1 year for a second or subsequent probation violation. The MVA may not reinstate a child's privilege to drive until the child completes a drug and alcohol abuse education program administered by the MVA and demonstrates that he or she has remained drug and alcohol free for the 6 months immediately preceding the application for reinstatement.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Increase in special fund expenditures by the MVA of approximately \$99,700 in FY 2000; out-years reflect annualization, inflation, and salary increases. Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures by DJJ. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
SF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditures	\$99,700	\$126,900	\$129,400	\$131,900	\$134,500
Net Effect	(\$99,700)	(\$126,900)	(\$129,400)	(\$131,900)	(\$134,500)

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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### Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** Drug testing is currently monitored and recorded by case managers for youth on probation. DJJ does not have a statewide policy regarding whether failing to appear for testing or failing a certain number of tests would result in notification of the court. Rather, the case managers and their supervisors usually make the decision to notify the court after consultation with the outpatient treatment program in which the youth in question participates. Statistics on the number of juveniles being tested for drugs as a condition of probation, the number of juveniles who fail to report for drug testing, or the number of juveniles who have failed drug testing twice are not readily available.

It is not clear whether the bill would result in more drug testing of juveniles, more violation of probation hearings, or more juveniles being held to have violated their probation than is the case under current law. If any of these increases occur, the State could incur increased costs for drug monitoring and testing, hearings, and further remedial measures, possibly including incarceration.

DJJ estimates that approximately 1,000 youths per year would be subject to the MVA sanction. Based on this estimate, special fund expenditures by the MVA could increase by an estimated \$99,699 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a half-time administrative specialist I and a half-time clerk typist III to process the associated applications for reinstatement, and a half-time customer service representative to process the suspension paperwork. The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time equipment costs, and ongoing operating expenses including administrative hearing costs, Medical Advisory Review Board fees, and communications expenses.

	<u>FY 2000</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$32,189
Operating Expenses	\$62,160
One-Time Equipment Purchases	<u>\$5,350</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,699</b>

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. Costs for the MVA would be higher to the extent that more youths are subject to the license suspension.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 1999  
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