

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 697 (Senator Collins)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

General Assembly - Office Space, Services, and Equipment

This bill repeals a provision of current law that prohibits a local government from subsidizing the office space, services, or equipment of a member of the General Assembly. The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate decrease in general fund expenditures beginning in FY 2000. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in aggregate expenditures beginning in FY 2000. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The proposed fiscal 2000 budget includes \$3.3 million in general funds for district offices of General Assembly members. Assuming that any local government subsidy would apply to the district offices of General Assembly members, annual general fund expenditures could potentially decrease. It is not possible to reliably predict the extent to which local jurisdictions may choose to subsidize or whether any subsidization would supplement or offset State expenditures. For illustrative purposes, actual district office expenditures in fiscal 1998 totaled \$3.1 million and included staff costs (\$2.2 million), rent (\$0.3 million), and associated operating expenses for supplies and equipment (\$0.6 million).

Local Expenditures: Annual local expenditures could potentially increase beginning in

fiscal 2000 depending on whether a local jurisdiction chooses to subsidize or supplement the office space, services, or equipment of a member of the General Assembly. However, five local jurisdictions have advised that there are no plans to do so.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services; Talbot, Allegany, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties; City of Baltimore

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 1999

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