

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 538 (Delegate Marriott. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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Study of the Administration of the Death Penalty

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This bill requires the Department of Criminology at the University of Maryland to conduct a study of the administration of the death penalty in the State to determine the extent of racial discrimination in the death penalty process. The study must include an empirical examination of charging and sentencing outcomes, including the gathering of specified case history information and the use of statistical analyses.

The bill limits State spending on the study to \$200,000, and requires completion of the study by December 1, 2002.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$200,000 during FY 2000 and FY 2001. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures would increase by a total of \$200,000 in fiscal 2000 and fiscal 2001, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date and the bill's study completion date of December 1, 2001. This estimate reflects the cost of the university to hire a director and two assistants to perform this statistical and case history study. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and operating expenses for the duration of the study.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$161,100
Operating Expenses	<u>38,900</u>
<b>Total FY 2000 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

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**Information Source(s):** University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 1999  
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Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510