

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 638 (Senators Hughes and Mitchell)

Budget and Taxation

Board of Social Work Examiners - Investigation of State Employees and Officers - Reimbursement of Counsel Fees

This bill authorizes the Board of Public Works to reimburse a State officer or employee for counsel fees if the officer or employee is investigated by the Board of Social Work Examiners for conduct as an officer or employee. The board may reimburse an officer or employee for counsel fees if the investigation has concluded and charges have not been filed against the officer or employee, or if the final disposition of all charges does not result in any type of disciplinary action or revocation of license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures for the Board of Social Work Examiners could increase by \$11,300 in FY 2000. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. 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	\$11,300	\$15,200	\$15,300	\$15,500	\$15,800
Net Effect	(\$11,300)	(\$15,200)	(\$15,300)	(\$15,500)	(\$15,800)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The State Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) has licensure and regulatory authority over all social workers in Maryland, including those who work for State government. The Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, Public Safety and Correctional Services, and Juvenile Justice currently employ licensed social workers who may be subject to investigation into their conduct as social workers for the State. BSWE estimates that six cases per year may be subject to the counsel fee reimbursement provision. Assuming average counsel fees of \$2,500 per case, expenditures for BSWE could increase by \$11,300 in fiscal 2000, reflecting the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues should not be affected.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management (Office of Personnel Services and Benefits - Division of Salary Administration and Classification), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Social Work Examiners); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 1999

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