

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 829 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

**Prince George's County - Designated Correctional Officers - Police Power
PG 314-99**

This bill requires the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections to appoint individuals to be "designated correctional officers" and to require such officers to be on duty at all times. The bill provides that a designated correctional officer has limited arrest powers on the property of the county detention facility, and within the jurisdiction of the facility. The director, in consultation with the Police Training Commission, is also required to adopt regulations concerning: (1) the education, training, and other specified qualifications for employment as a professional correctional officer; and (2) standards for the performance of duties.

The bill also includes a "designated correctional officer" of Prince George's County under the definition of "police officer" under specified warrantless arrest provisions, and includes the Prince George's County Department of Corrections under other specified definitions relating to the arrest and criminal law enforcement powers of "law enforcement officers" and "police officers."

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Police and Correctional Training Commission could provide consultation to the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections with existing personnel.

Local Effect: Potential indeterminate expenditure increases for Prince George's County. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: The authority to make these appointments already exists for the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections. This bill requires the director to make these appointments. It is assumed that the appointments would be made from among the existing staff of correctional officers.

The appointed officers would have to meet certain education, training, human relations, and moral character requirements. Appointment of such officers would increase expenditures due to additional training costs. Because the bill requires 24-hour coverage at the correctional facility by the designated correctional officers, it is assumed that a minimum of six officers would have to receive this training.

The actual police training of these correctional officers would be done by the Prince George's Police Training Academy. Training costs are estimated to be approximately \$4,200 per officer for a physical and psychological examination, supplies, and safety equipment such as a bulletproof vest and firearm. However, Prince George's County advises that the training could be full-time for approximately ten weeks, and that the correctional facility shifts of those officers would have to be covered by use of overtime by the remaining staff.

It is difficult to assess the precise fiscal impact of this bill because of the following unknowns: (1) the design and actual duration of the training program for designated officers; (2) the extent to which overtime pay may have to be used to accommodate a training schedule; and (3) the extent to which the bill's requirement that designated correctional officers be on duty at all times may affect the number of correctional officers who would have to be appointed and maintained.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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