

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 859 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

Prince George's County - Fire Investigators - Powers
PG 309-99

This bill authorizes the Prince George's County Fire Department, with certain exceptions, to make warrantless arrests, conduct investigations, and enforce specified fire related statutes without jurisdictional limitations. The bill also includes Prince George's County Fire Investigators under the definition of "police officer" for purposes relating to required training by the Maryland Police Training Commission or an approved police training program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. Any additional arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and incarcerations that result from this bill are not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: Minimal. Any additional arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and incarcerations that result from this bill are not expected to significantly affect local finances or operations.

This bill enables fire department personnel to carry out investigations and to make arrests without the need to seek assistance from police agencies. Theoretically, this allows for greater efficiencies, but would not necessarily produce quantifiable savings or have a measurable fiscal impact on the county. Since there are generally four to five fire investigators working for the county at any given time, it is assumed that, at \$50 per person, the cost of meeting Maryland Police Training Commission charges can be handled with existing county resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 4, 1999

dmm/jr

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