

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 440 (Delegates Montague and Branch)

Judiciary

Drug-Related Offenses - Course of Conduct

This bill prohibits a person from engaging in a “course of conduct” for the purpose of violating specified drug-related provisions. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 30 days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill’s penalty provisions. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Criminal code prohibitions against a “course of conduct,” as defined in this bill, involve prohibitions against harassment and stalking. Penalties for these offenses range from a fine of \$500 and/or imprisonment for 90 days for harassment, and a fine of \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for five years for stalking.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill’s monetary penalty provision since these cases would be heard in the District Court.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill’s incarceration penalty. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence, plus

part of the per diem cost after 90 days. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$22 to \$83 per inmate in fiscal 2001.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar bills were introduced during the 1995 and 1997 sessions. HB 167 of 1995 received an unfavorable report from the Judiciary Committee; HB 252 of 1997 passed the House but received an unfavorable report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2000
nncsjr

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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