

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1000 (Delegate Rosenberg)

Judiciary

Crimes - Investigation - Unauthorized Access to Computers

This bill authorizes an investigative or law enforcement officer, or specified persons acting at the prior direction and under the supervision of such an officer in a criminal investigation, to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication in order to provide evidence of the commission of offenses relating to the unauthorized access to a computer.

The bill also authorizes applications for, and the granting of, orders for such interceptions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. The extent to which this bill could result in additional “wire taps” or other interceptions of communications is unknown. Likewise, the extent that such information legally obtained could result in a greater number of criminal convictions relating to unauthorized computer access offenses is also unknown. In any event, this bill is not expected to significantly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Interception of such communications are lawful in order to provide evidence of a variety of specified crimes, including murder, kidnapping, rape, and fraudulent insurance acts, and in certain hostage situations. Chapter 524 of 1998 added child pornography to this list of offenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Office of the Public Defender, Office of State's Attorneys' Coordinator, Department of Legislative Services

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