

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 482 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)  
(Maryland Judicial Conference)

Judiciary

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District Court - Constables

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This bill makes it discretionary for the Chief Judge of the District Court to appoint constables in each district. The bill also makes it discretionary for an administrative judge of a district to assign constables to the courts or divisions of courts within the district, and repeals the requirement that every court or division of a court in a district have at least one constable.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill would not significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Chief Judge of the District Court, upon the recommendation of the administrative judge of each district, must appoint the number of constables required to serve process within that district. An administrative judge must assign the constables to the various courts or divisions of courts within the district so that every court or division has at least one constable.

**Background:** Constables are State employees whose duties are to serve civil process. Sheriffs also serve civil process. Baltimore and Washington counties are currently the only counties in which constables are used.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The bill would basically conform the law to current practice. It is not expected that any constables would be laid off as a result of the bill. The bill would not significantly impact governmental finances.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 213 (Maryland Judicial Conference) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County, Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2000

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