

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1122 (Delegates Montague and Cole)

Environmental Matters

**Juvenile Justice - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Monitoring Injuries at Juvenile Facilities**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to monitor incidences of physical injury sustained by children at juvenile facilities operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

DHMH must submit an annual report of its findings and any recommendations to the General Assembly by December 30 of each year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000 and sunsets June 30, 3005.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$61,700 in FY 2001 to hire a nurse. Future year expenditures reflect salary increases and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$61,700	\$57,900	\$60,500	\$63,300	\$66,100
Net Effect	(\$61,700)	(\$57,900)	(\$60,500)	(\$63,300)	(\$66,100)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** DHMH is not required to monitor incidences of physical injury sustained by children in DJJ facilities.

**Background:** Serious concerns have been raised about conditions and practices in DJJ facilities, including allegations of physical abuse of juvenile residents.

**State Expenditures:** During July and August 1999, 30 injuries of children at DJJ facilities were reported each month. It is expected that the number of injuries would be reduced in the future. DHMH advises that it would need to hire two nurses to meet the bill's requirements. Legislative Services believes, however, that one nurse could handle the additional work.

General fund expenditures thus would increase by an estimated \$61,674 in fiscal 2001, which reflects the bill's July 1, 2000 effective date. The estimate includes salary for the new nurse, fringe benefits, one-time office equipment purchases, communications, travel, and supplies.

Salary and fringe benefits	\$53,204
Office equipment	4,670
Ongoing operating expenses	<u>3,800</u>
<b>Total FY 2001 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$61,674</b>

Future year expenditures reflect (1) 4.5% annual salary increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Legislative Services.

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2000  
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