

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1202 (Delegate Gettv)
Commerce and Government Matters

Private Attorney Procurement Sunshine Act

This bill provides that an executive unit of State government may not contract with an attorney or group of attorneys who are not State employees to perform legal services on behalf of the unit until after the unit has conducted an open and competitive bidding process.

A specified committee of the General Assembly must review each contract for legal services exceeding \$1 million, and may hold a public hearing.

The bill also prohibits an executive unit of State government from paying total legal fees and expenses exceeding \$1,000 per hour for contracted legal services rendered on a contingent fee basis by an attorney or group of attorneys who are not State employees.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is expected that the bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources. Any potential cost savings from prohibiting contracted legal services costing more than \$1,000 per hour are expected to be minimal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

State Fiscal Effect: Although the bill would add procedures to be followed and impose limitations on State agencies when contracting for legal services, it is expected that the bill's

requirements could be handled within existing budgeted resources.

The Department of General Services did not respond to requests for information regarding the fiscal impact of this bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2000

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