

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 15 (Delegate Tavlör. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Circuit Courts - Business and Technology Division

This bill establishes a 19-member Business and Technology Division Task Force to study the feasibility of the establishment of a business and technology division in appropriate circuit courts in the State. The task force is to be chaired by the President of the Maryland State Bar Association or designee and must issue a final report addressing specified items by December 1, 2000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000 and sunsets June 30, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not address staffing for the task force. Assuming staffing is provided by the Maryland State Bar Association, a non-profit organization, State finances would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are currently no business and technology courts in Maryland.

Background: This bill recognizes the growing role of electronic commerce in Maryland and

the rest of the country and the increasingly complex and technical issues involved. Delaware has demonstrated the advantage of having a designated court structure for business issues in attracting corporate headquarters to the state. California has developed guidelines for handling complex legal issues in its courts, but no state has set up a forum especially for handling technology disputes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2000

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