

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 757 (Delegate Moe. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Department of State Police - Communications Systems - Waiver of Fees for Mobile
Digital Terminals

This bill exempts law enforcement agencies from charges and fees from the Department of State Police for connecting with or accessing the Maryland Interagency Law Enforcement System (MILES) through mobile digital terminals located in vehicles owned by law enforcement agencies.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Technically, none. The Department of State Police does not collect charges or fees from law enforcement agencies for connecting with or accessing MILES. These collections are made by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). For FY 2001, DPSCS expects to collect a total of \$394,000 in fees for MILES connections.

Local Effect: Technically, none. The total amount of money paid by local governments for connections to MILES is unknown.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Any law enforcement agency of the State is permitted to connect with and use various communications systems in the State including MILES, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications system (NLETS).

Background: The Department of State Police is the control terminal operator for all of these systems, but they are “owned” by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Information Technology and Communications Division) which collects all fees and charges relating to them.

State Fiscal Effect: Although this bill does not correctly identify the State agency that is responsible for assessing and collecting MILES fees, the following information is intended to illustrate the operations and magnitude of the actual fee collection process currently in use.

Fees for connection to and use of MILES are invoiced by DPSCS at \$13 per mobile digital terminal (MDT) per month as a cost recovery mechanism for maintaining the system. For fiscal 2001, revenues from these collections are estimated at \$394,056 for 2,526 MDTs. This money is deposited to two special funds administered by DPSCS. All revenues from local governments are deposited to the Non-State Data Processing Services Fund, a lapsing special fund; invoiced amounts from State agencies are recorded to the Various State Agencies Data Processing Services Fund, a fund that keeps track of reimbursable costs between DPSCS and other State agencies for such services.

The Non-State Data Processing Services Fund is projected to collect a total of \$1.45 million in fiscal 2001, including some small amounts from federal agencies. It is unknown how much of this amount is attributable to the local government portion of connection fees for MILES. The Various State Agencies Data Processing Services Fund is projected to record a total of \$1.4 million in reimbursable income. It is unknown how much of this amount is attributable to connection fees for MILES alone.

Annual fees for MILES have been projected by DPSCS to grow to \$444,600 (2,850 MDTs) in fiscal 2002 and \$570,648 (3,658 MDTs) in fiscal 2003. However, these fee collections have historically fallen short of full cost recovery, and funds allocated to the Office of the Secretary have been used to makeup any such shortfall.

Local Fiscal Effect: If this fee were eliminated, expenditures by local governments would decrease by varying amounts. For purposes of illustration, Prince George’s County reports MILES fee assessments to the county at approximately \$140,000 annually; Montgomery County reports an annual assessment of \$204,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 561 (Senator Currie, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Information Technology and Communications Division), Department of State Police, Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration), Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

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