

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 917 (Delegate Rawlings. *et al.*)  
 (Baltimore City Administration)

Appropriations

**Department of State Police - Law Enforcement Equipment Fund**

This bill establishes a Law Enforcement Equipment Fund to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring equipment needed to address violent crime.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$36,400 in FY 2001 for costs associated with administering the special fund. Future general fund revenues would not be affected. Actual Law Enforcement Equipment Fund revenues and expenditures are unknown. However, based on estimates of need reported by Baltimore City, such a fund may need \$10-\$12 million, over time, in order to make grants to all eligible jurisdictions statewide.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Revenues	-	-	-	-	-
GF Expenditures	36,400	43,000	45,100	47,200	49,500
SF Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
Net Effect	(\$36,400)	(\$43,000)	(\$45,100)	(\$47,200)	(\$49,500)

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

**Local Effect:** Depending on “comparative needs,” local law enforcement units could receive significant new revenues to meet expressed equipment shortfalls.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. To the extent there are any additional equipment purchases from small businesses that would otherwise not be made, there could be

a meaningful impact to those businesses.

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## Analysis

**Summary:** The Law Enforcement Equipment Fund is required to consist of money appropriated in the State budget. The bill requires the Secretary of the State Police to administer the fund and establish application procedures for grants from the fund.

The bill requires local law enforcement agencies to provide specified information to the State Police. Jurisdictions with the highest incidence of violent crime must be given funding priority. The bill requires that aid distributed from the fund must be based on the comparative equipment needs of each local law enforcement agency, and used to supplement, and not supplant, other local law enforcement funding. Local law enforcement agencies are required to submit proof of appropriate equipment expenditures. The Secretary of State Police is required to report annually, by September 1, on distribution of aid from the fund.

**Current Law:** The State provides regular and supplemental grants to local government police operations via the State Aid For Police Protection Fund. Counties and qualifying municipalities share in this distribution of aid in accordance with various formulae under the provisions of Article 88B, Section 66(b). This bill would not affect such State allocations to qualifying counties or municipalities.

**Background:** According to the most recent (1998) *Uniform Crime Report* (UCR), there are 102 local law enforcement agencies in the State. In 1975, Maryland instituted a program to require all local law enforcement agencies to submit standardized crime reports based on the federal reporting system to ensure consistency. Data for the reports is gathered from each agency's record of complaints, investigations, and arrests. The Maryland State Police compile the information by calendar year which is published as the UCR. The methodology for these reports follows guidelines and definitions of crimes as provided by the FBI and its national *Uniform Crime Report*.

The UCR measures the incidence, arrests, and trends for the following offenses categorized as violent crimes: (1) murder and voluntary manslaughter; (2) forcible rape; (3) robbery; and (4) aggravated assault. In addition, the Domestic Violence Act of 1994 mandates that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland submit copies of their police reports of incidences involving domestic violence to the State Police. This data has also been included in the 1998 report. Violent crimes account for about 15% of the State's total crime index.

The jurisdictions with the State's highest incidence of violent crime tend to be those with the highest population. Accordingly, while Baltimore City leads all jurisdictions by a large margin, Prince George's, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties all have significantly higher rates than the State average for 1998 of 794.2 victims of violent crimes per 100,000 population. However, crime rates for individual local law enforcement agencies

are not calculated in the UCR because of overlapping jurisdictions of municipal, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$36,392 in fiscal 2001, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2000, effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one fiscal specialist to administer the fund and its grant application processes. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

While this bill establishes a fund that would consist of money appropriated in the State budget, the Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal 2001 does not include money for this fund. The extent to which this fund would have and expend funds in future years would depend on budgetary decisions not yet under consideration by the General Assembly. However, based on estimates of need reported by Baltimore City, such a fund may need \$10-\$12 million, over time, in order to make grants to all eligible jurisdictions statewide.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Baltimore City reports that, being the jurisdiction with the highest incidence of violent crime in the State, grant applications to such a fund would include the following equipment (and training) needs:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Unit of Equipment</u>	<u>Anticipated Grant Request</u>
1	Mobile Command Unit	\$130,000
3,275	“Raid” Jackets	245,625
n/a	Field Report Software (including training)	1,500,000
74	Mobile Workstations	740,000
n/a	Homicide Equipment	254,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,870,225</b>

Baltimore City also believes that an effective level of funding for the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund would be between \$10-\$12 million in order to meet equipment grant requests that may come from any jurisdiction qualifying for funding under the bill’s provision. Montgomery County advises that the magnitude of its grant request would depend entirely on the amount of available money in the fund.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 716 (Senator McFadden) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Baltimore City, Montgomery County,  
Department of Legislative Services

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