

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 347 (Senator Conwav. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City - Transfer of Housing Authority Police to the Police Department of Baltimore City

This bill abolishes the Housing Authority of Baltimore City Police Force (HAPF) and establishes a special housing division within the Police Department of Baltimore City to serve the public safety needs of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. The Baltimore City Police Commissioner will appoint officers and other employees of the police department to the special division and will establish the division's duties and standards. All employees of the HAPF as of June 30, 2000, will be transferred to the Police Department of Baltimore City and will have the rights and duties of police department employees. The bill also protects the pensions of the employees transferred from the HAPF, allowing them to transfer without penalty into the pension plan for the Police Department of Baltimore City.

The bill is effective July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The proposed FY 2001 budget includes approximately \$7.6 million in State grants to the Police Department of Baltimore City. The grants are not affected by the bill.

Local Effect: Baltimore City general fund expenditures could increase by up to \$12 million in FY 2001 and each year thereafter to cover the salaries and fringe benefits of the additional officers plus equipment and supplies.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Officers with the HAPF have all the powers of any law enforcement officer in the State while on housing authority property. They are not affiliated with the Police Department of Baltimore City.

Background: The HAPF, established in 1987, seeks to provide a secure environment for public housing residents and their neighbors. The force includes about 100 law enforcement officers who would be eligible to transfer to the Police Department of Baltimore City. Aside from its public safety duties, the HAPF has been involved in community leadership and volunteer services in the housing authority communities.

Local Expenditures: The HAPF is currently funded by the federal government at a cost of approximately \$12 million per year, \$8 million of which is personnel costs. It is assumed that the cost to Baltimore City to take on the transferred officers as well as the additional support staff, supplies, and equipment would be similar. Any additional pension costs would reflect the difference in employer contribution rate between the HAPF plan and the police department plan.

The budget for the Police Department of Baltimore City was \$231 million in fiscal 2000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

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