

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 188 (Senator Conwav. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Arrests - Access to Medical Care and Medication in Confinement**

---

This bill allows an individual, who is arrested while in possession of properly prescribed medication, to take the medication as prescribed while in custody. The bill also provides that, during a medical emergency relating to a known medical condition, an individual in custody may be administered available medical care or medication without a physician's attendance.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The requirements of this bill are not expected to materially affect the staffing or funding needs of State law enforcement or correctional agencies.

**Local Effect:** The requirements of this bill are not expected to materially affect the staffing or funding needs of local law enforcement or correctional agencies. Some counties report that this bill codifies current practice.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** When a law enforcement officer finds a person in a semiconscious or unconscious state, and the person is carrying an identification bracelet, tag, or card that identifies an illness that could cause such a condition, the officer has the responsibility to immediately notify the person's physician or have the person transported to an appropriate medical facility. There are no existing provisions relating to medications in possession of an arrestee at the time of an arrest, nor the administration of available medical care or medication to an inmate in custody without a physician's attendance.

---

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2000

bc/jr

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510