

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 189 (Delegate Branch. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Law Enforcement - Special Policemen - Training Requirements

This bill requires an individual who applies for a special police commission to receive training by the Police Training Commission in basic arrest procedures and firearms safety.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures each would increase by about \$135,000 annually. For FY 2001 only, an additional \$13,100 of general funds would be needed for training equipment.

Local Effect: None. Special police commissions for local governments are already provided by the Police Training Commission.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Costs for private sector special police commissions would increase for any small business covering training costs for an officer. However, it is believed that most such commissions are issued to business entities which employ more than 50 persons and, therefore, do not meet the definition of small business.

Analysis

Current Law: Special police commissions are granted by the Governor to persons employed by public and private entities via a statutorily required application process. Special police officers are charged with the protection and preservation of peace and good order on the property described in the application. An officer has the powers of a police officer (including arrest powers) on the property described in the application and “may exercise these powers in any county or city of the State in connection with the care, custody, and protection of other property of the requesting authority or other property, real or personal, for which it has assumed an obligation to maintain or protect.”

Background: Currently there are 7,191 special police commissions in the State. All

applications for commissions are made with the Department of State Police which forwards the applications to the Secretary of State for processing. In fiscal 1999, the Secretary of State received 561 new and renewal applications for commissions. All special officer commissions for employment with a public entity are already provided with training by the Police Training Commission.

State Fiscal Effect: Training by the Police Training Commission for private sector special police officers is performed on a full reimbursable basis through special funds. The Police Training Commission estimates that the training required by the bill for such officers would involve a five-day program at a cost of about \$500 per officer. This cost would be passed on, in full, to the trainees or their employers.

Assuming approximately 270 new applications per year representing commissions for private sector officers, special fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$135,000 annually (\$500 x 270) beginning in fiscal 2001. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring three contractual instructors and one clerical person to provide 12-15 five-day training programs for all commissioned private sector officers annually. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

In order to equip this expanded training program for the Police Training Commission, an additional \$13,130 in general funds would be needed in fiscal 2001 only.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions), Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

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