

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 389 (Delegate Marriott. *et al.*)

Judiciary

---

Crimes and Punishments - Procedure - Circuit Courts - Trial Date

---

This bill eliminates the ability of a court to postpone a trial date in a criminal case in circuit court later than 180 days after the earlier of the appearance of counsel or the first appearance of the defendant before the court.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** The date for trial of a criminal matter in circuit court must be set within 30 days after the earlier of the appearance of counsel or the defendant's initial appearance, and may not be later than 180 days after the earlier of those events. On motion of a party or on the court's initiative and for good cause shown, a county administrative judge or designee may grant a change of the trial date.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill could result in heavier dockets and/or more plea agreements, but is not expected to have a significant fiscal effect.

Information regarding the number of trial dates postponed past 180 days is not readily available, but that number is not believed to be large. A court must already observe a

defendant's constitutional right to a speedy trial.

---

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2000  
nlr/jr

---

Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

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