

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 820 (Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Task Force to Study Investigations into Allegations of Police Corruption**

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This bill establishes a 13-member Task Force to Study Investigations into Allegations of Police Corruption. The task force must: (i) examine ways to eliminate any conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety in investigations of police corruption; and (ii) explore the feasibility of and options for requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain independent counsel and establishing a central agency charged with investigating allegations of police corruption. The Attorney General's Office will provide staff resources. The task force must issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2002.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** It is assumed that task force members would be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations. Expenses are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within budgeted agency resources.

The Office of the Attorney General is to provide staff support for the task force. The Department of Legislative Services advises that the office should be able to absorb the staffing duties within existing resources. The duration of the task force's activities is relatively short and its duties are limited. However, the Office of the Attorney General believes that two additional part-time positions and various equipment and operating expenses would be necessary. The office estimates that these costs would total \$23,796 in fiscal 2002 and \$25,088 in fiscal 2003.

**Additional Comments:** Although the task force is to issue a final report by December 1, 2002, the bill does not sunset. It is assumed that the task force will no longer be active subsequent to the issuance of the report.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 5, 2001  
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