

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 422 (Senator Lawlah, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Maryland Commission for Women - Sexual Trafficking of Women

This bill requires the Maryland Commission on Women, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), to gather data on the frequency and scope of sexual trafficking of women in the State, examine State criminal statutes to ensure compliance with federal laws regarding criminalization of the activities of women traffickers, and develop recommendations for the prosecution of traffickers of women under State laws.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$44,600 in FY 2002. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	44,600	55,000	58,000	61,100	64,400
Net Effect	(\$44,600)	(\$55,000)	(\$58,000)	(\$61,100)	(\$64,400)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The Maryland Commission for Women consists of 24 members appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the improvement of the status of women. Among other things, the commission works to stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status of women in the State and may act as a clearinghouse for all activities to avoid duplication of effort. The membership includes both men and women and is broadly representative of all fields of interest of women. It includes persons experienced in public affairs, private industry, and volunteer activities and represents various age groups and geographical regions of the State. The commission is a unit of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and reports to the Governor and the legislature through the Secretary of DHR. The commission does not have authority to promulgate rules and regulations.

According to the U. S. State Department, trafficking in women and children is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. One to two million women and children are trafficked annually around the world, and approximately 50,000 -100,000 are brought into the United States. These trafficking victims, who are lured into trafficking networks through false promises of good working conditions at high pay, suffer extreme physical and mental abuse, including rape, torture, starvation, imprisonment, death threats, and physical brutality.

Maryland has several criminal statutes that relate to the sexual trafficking of women.

State Expenditures: DHR advises that general fund expenditures would increase by \$1.09 million in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one assistant attorney general, one secretary, contractual employees, and developing an automated information system to gather data on the frequency and scope of sexual trafficking in the State. The OAG advises that general fund expenditures would increase by \$51,848 to hire one assistant attorney general. These expenditures include salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) disagrees with DHR and OAG and advises that the provisions of the bill could be met with one administrator and existing information systems and other resources. Consequently, general fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$44,591 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one administrator for DHR to gather data, examine criminal statutes, and develop recommendations for the prosecution of traffickers of women. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$38,467
Other Operating Expenses	<u>6,124</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$44,591

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salary with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General, Department of Human Resources, U.S. State Department, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 12, 2001
 ncs/jr Revised – Updated Information – March 29, 2001

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