

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 165
Judicial Proceedings

Senator Hoffman, et al.)

Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

This bill establishes the 15-member Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) as a statutory entity to address issues affecting the administration of criminal justice in the city.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001 and sunsets June 30, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Governor's FY 2002 budget allowance for the CJCC is \$250,000, to be appropriated via a newly created budget code directly to the CJCC. This amount includes a salary and fringe benefits for the executive director. Any expense reimbursements for CJCC members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of each participating agency. Out-year costs are assumed to remain relatively constant through FY 2005.

Local Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that any costs for Baltimore City associated with participation in the operations of the council could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The authority of the CJCC is established as advisory only. The bill provides for the membership, duties, chairmanship, quorum, and frequency of meetings

of the council. Council members are prohibited from receiving compensation for council duties, but are allowed to receive expense reimbursements under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State or city budgets.

The bill also establishes an executive director for the council, and provides for the appointment, duties, and compensation of that position. The council is required to submit a report of its activities, recommendations, and progress to the Governor, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the General Assembly by August 30 of each year.

This bill is effective July 1, 2001, and its provisions are terminated after June 30, 2005.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The existing coordinating council is an *ad hoc* volunteer group composed of the same heads of each city, State, and federal agency named to the council under this bill. Since March 1999, the CJCC has held monthly public meetings to address systematic reforms for the criminal justice system in the city. Budgeted funds for the council in prior years have included State funds. Other known criminal justice coordinating councils in the State operate as local entities without State funding.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1091 (Delegates Rawlings and Montague) – Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Governor, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 16, 2001
cm/jr

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