

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 216 (Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Handgun Permits - Parole Agents, Probation Officers, and Correctional Officers

This bill prohibits the Secretary of the State Police from charging existing handgun permit fees to parole agents, probation officers, and correctional officers in connection with an application for a permit to carry a handgun.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential loss of revenue from handgun permit fees in excess of \$145,000 annually. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The following persons may not be charged a fee for an initial application, for a renewal or subsequent application, or a duplicate or modified permit for a handgun: (1) a State, county, or municipal public safety employee who is required to wear or carry a handgun as a condition of government employment; or (2) a retired law enforcement officer of the State or of a county or municipal corporation of the State. In addition, the Secretary of State Police has the authority to waive such permit fees.

State Revenues: Initial handgun application fees are \$75, and renewal fees are \$50. It is not known how many of these agents and officers may already have handgun permits. It

is assumed that handgun permits sought under the provisions of this bill would primarily be for personal benefit or use.

For purposes of illustration, in fiscal 2000 handgun permits were issued to 1,855 correctional officers and to 80 parole agents or probation officers. Assuming these numbers are representative of a typical year, beginning in fiscal 2002 approximately 1,935 permit applications would be issued without accompanying fees, resulting in an annual loss of \$145,125. Revenues would decrease by additional amounts attributable to renewals and duplicate permits, but these amounts cannot be reliably estimated.

Applicants for permits under these provisions would still have to submit to criminal history record checks. The total maximum cost of such checks and mandatory fingerprinting is \$52, which includes State and national background checks. This cost would be borne by applicants. Since there would be fewer than 10,000 applicants, State expenditures would not be affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction, Division of Parole and Probation), Department of Legislative Services

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ef/jr

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