

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 578 (Washington County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Washington County - Exemption from Advertising Requirement for Contracts  
for Covert Operations**

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This bill exempts a contract of sale, purchase of equipment, or a contract for other expenditures, that exceed \$25,000, by the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the Washington County State's Attorney's Office, or the county's Narcotics Task Force that are used in covert operations from advertising requirements. The bill makes records of these purchases confidential until the conclusion of the covert operation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Washington County advises that advertising for county purchases covers a wide variety of products and services used by the county and is done on an as needed basis. Excluding purchases for covert operations by the Sheriff's Office, the State's Attorney, or the Narcotics Task Force would be negligible.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Public invitation for bids on contracts for sale or purchase exceeding \$25,000 must be advertised for least one week before bids are due in at least one newspaper that is published in the county or through electronic media. Contracts that are exempt from the advertising requirement of Washington County include contracts or transactions involving the deposit of county funds into any authorized State or federal

banking institution, emergency repairs, purchase of tangible property at public auction, and any purchase made by approval of the county commissioners for sole procurement.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 13, 2001  
jm/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 19, 2001

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