

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 588

(Delegate Marriott, *et al.*)

Appropriations

Budget and Taxation

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention - Law Enforcement Equipment Fund

This bill establishes a Law Enforcement Equipment Fund to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring equipment needed to address violent crime.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures to capitalize the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund could increase from \$500,000 to \$2 million annually beginning in FY 2002, which includes costs associated with administering the special fund (reflected in table below). General fund revenues would not be affected. Actual special fund revenues and expenditures are unknown.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
SF Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
GF Expenditure	39,300	48,100	50,700	53,500	56,600
SF Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Net Effect	(\$39,300)	(\$48,100)	(\$50,700)	(\$53,500)	(\$56,600)

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

Local Effect: Depending on “comparative needs,” local law enforcement units could receive significant new revenues to meet expressed equipment shortfalls.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent there are any additional equipment purchases from small businesses that would otherwise not be made, there could be a meaningful impact to those businesses.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Law Enforcement Equipment Fund is required to consist of money appropriated in the State budget. The bill requires the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to administer the fund and establish application procedures for grants from the fund.

The bill requires local law enforcement agencies applying for aid from the fund to provide specified information to GOCCP. Jurisdictions with the highest incidence of violent crime must be given funding priority. The bill requires that aid distributed from the fund must be based on the comparative equipment needs of each local law enforcement agency, and used to supplement, and not supplant, other local law enforcement funding. Local law enforcement agencies are required to submit proof of appropriate equipment expenditures. GOCCP is required to report annually, by September 1, on distribution of aid from the fund.

Current Law: The State provides regular and supplemental grants to local government police operations via the State Aid For Police Protection Fund. Counties and qualifying municipalities share in this distribution of aid in accordance with various formulae under the provisions of Article 88B, Section 66(b). This bill would not affect such State allocations to qualifying counties or municipalities.

Background: According to the most recent (1999) *Uniform Crime Report* (UCR), there are 120 local law enforcement agencies in the State. In 1975, Maryland instituted a program to require all local law enforcement agencies to submit standardized crime reports based on the federal reporting system to ensure consistency. Data for the reports is gathered from each agency's record of complaints, investigations, and arrests. The Maryland State Police compile the information by calendar year which is published as the UCR. The methodology for these reports follows guidelines and definitions of crimes as provided by the FBI and its national *Uniform Crime Report*.

The UCR measures the incidence, arrests, and trends for the following offenses categorized as violent crimes: (1) murder and voluntary manslaughter; (2) forcible rape; (3) robbery; and (4) aggravated assault. In addition, the Domestic Violence Act of 1994 mandates that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland submit copies of their police reports of incidences involving domestic violence to the State Police. This data has also been included in the 1999 report. Violent crimes account for about 16% of the State's total crime index.

The jurisdictions with the State's highest incidence of violent crime tend to be those with the highest population. Accordingly, while Baltimore City leads all jurisdictions by a

large margin, Prince George's, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties all have significantly higher rates than the State average for 1999 of 816.0 victims of violent crimes per 100,000 population. According to the 1999 UCR, the city accounts for 62% of all murders, 25% of rapes, and 40% of aggravated assaults. While Baltimore City reports that Prince George's County and the city account for approximately 60% of the State's violent crime, crime rates for individual local law enforcement agencies are not calculated in the UCR because of overlapping jurisdictions of municipal, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

State Fiscal Effect: Assuming that this fund would be funded by an amount in excess of \$500,000 for fiscal 2002, general fund expenditures for GOCCP could increase by an estimated \$39,278 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one fiscal specialist to administer the fund and its grant application processes. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full salary with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% annual increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

While this bill establishes a fund that would consist of money appropriated in the State budget, the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2002 does not include money for this fund. The extent to which this fund would have and expend funds in future years would depend on budgetary decisions not yet under consideration by the General Assembly. However, over time, in order to make grants to all eligible jurisdictions statewide, the fund may need significant amounts of general fund appropriations. It is assumed that any annual general fund appropriation to capitalize the fund would include funds to cover GOCCP costs associated with administering the fund (cited above).

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City reports that, being the jurisdiction with the highest incidence of violent crime in the State, grant applications to such a fund may include funds for equipment and training needs. Montgomery County and Prince George's County advise that the magnitude of grant requests would depend entirely on the amount of available money in the fund. In any event, the Department of Legislative Services assumes that at least \$500,000 to \$2 million would be needed annually for a viable fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: In 2000, similar bills were introduced as SB 716/HB 917. SB 716 passed the Senate and received an unfavorable report from the Appropriations Committee. HB 917, after a hearing before the Appropriations Committee, had no further action taken on it.

Cross File: SB 453 (Senator McFadden, *et al.*) – Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention,
Department of State Police, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Prince George's
County, Department of Legislative Services

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