

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 661

(Senator Exum)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

---

**Prince George's County - Law Enforcement - Settlement Reports**

---

This bill requires Prince George's County to report annually to the County Council and General Assembly on the total number of settlements of tort claims involving law enforcement activities in the county and the total expenditures made in the preceding fiscal year for those settlements.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** It is expected that the reporting requirements of this bill could be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel, consisting of seven appointed residents of the county, has been established by the Local Laws of Prince George's County to review the processing of complaints of excessive force, abusive language, or harassment, and to comment on the action taken on such complaints. The panel must report its recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer upon the final disposition of each case and issue an annual report to the public. There are no State laws requiring reporting of law enforcement-related claims or settlements.

**Background:** Prince George's County settles some complaints out-of-court by monetary payment, without an admission of blame or guilt, and seals the settlement agreement as a matter of practice.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2002  
ncs/cer Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2002  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 2002

---

Analysis by: Debra A. Dickstein

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510