

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1265

(Delegates McIntosh and Rosenberg)

Commerce and Government Matters

Budget and Taxation and Finance

State Commission on Public Safety Technology and Critical Infrastructure

This bill establishes a 19-member State Commission on Public Safety Technology and Critical Infrastructure to: (1) make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of communication and information management systems maintained by the Judicial Branch; (2) adopt regulations to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of systems maintained by State and local public safety units, as well as accessibility by other appropriate entities to public safety and criminal justice databases; (3) recommend standards and procedures to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of communication and information management systems maintained by local public safety units; and (4) propose legislation to the General Assembly to implement the recommendations regarding compatibility and interoperability of communication and information management systems maintained by local public safety units.

Staffing to the commission and related administrative functions are required to be provided by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The bill is effective July 1, 2002 and terminates June 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of about \$50,000 annually, through FY 2006, for the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention for costs associated with consultant fees and commission meeting expenses.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
Net Effect	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	\$0

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

Local Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that any local government participation or cooperation with commission activities could be handled with existing budgeted resources and/or the commission's ability to reimburse expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent that recommendations from the commission lead to additional State or local government purchases of equipment and software, various small businesses could benefit.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission is required to meet at the times determined by the chairman. A commission member may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget. The Governor may designate the Lieutenant Governor to chair the commission and, if that designation is not made, the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention will serve as chairman.

To the extent authorized in the State budget, the commission may provide technical assistance to help local jurisdictions comply with recommendations of the commission. The commission must consult and cooperate with other states and federal units as well as with other units of State and local governments on matters concerning compatibility and technology standards.

On or before December 1 of each year, the commission must submit a report of its recent activities to the Governor, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the General Assembly. The commission is required to inform DBM, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee, and the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, on an ongoing basis, whether communication and information management systems supported by State funds comply with applicable standards.

Current Law: The Information Technology Board within the Department of Budget and Management has oversight over developing, maintaining, and enforcing statewide information technology standards, policies, and procedures. The board advises the Executive Director of Information Technology, also referred to as the State's Chief Information Officer (CIO), on Maryland's official Information Technology Master Plan. There is an Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) composed of representatives of each State agency's chief information officer. ITAC meets monthly

and is chaired by the State's CIO, who steers Maryland's information technology initiatives.

Background: The bill was created with the assistance of the Lieutenant Governor's Public Safety Technology Task Force.

State Effect: The extent to which recommendations of the commission might be implemented by a unit of State or local government, or the fiscal impact of such actions, cannot be readily predicted. It is reasonable to assume that implementation of projects relating to improving or "ensuring" compatibility and interoperability of communication and information management systems in the public safety and criminal justice arenas could prove to be significant.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Board of Public Works, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2002
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