

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 769

(Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation)

Appropriations

Finance

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**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Park Police Officers - Binding Arbitration PG/MC 110-02**

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This bill modifies provisions of law relating to collective bargaining between the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit for park police officers. Most notably, the bill establishes procedures requiring the appointment of a mediator-arbitrator and binding arbitration when there is an impasse in collective bargaining. The commission and the employee organization must share equally in paying the costs of the mediator-arbitrator's services. The economic provisions of the final agreement are subject to funding by the Montgomery and Prince George's County councils. Provisions authorizing the appointment of a fact finder and the use of fact-finding procedures in the event of an impasse in collective bargaining are repealed.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Increase in arbitration costs of \$9,250 to \$35,500 and a potential increase in personnel costs. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** M-NCPPC and an employee organization certified as the exclusive representative of the employee bargaining unit for park police officers must engage in collective bargaining with regard to certain issues, including salaries and wages, retirement, benefits, hours and working conditions, grievance procedures, and employee health and safety. A fact finder may be used in the collective bargaining process when agreed upon by the commission and the employee organization, or in the event of an impasse. The commission and the employee organization must share equally the costs of the fact finder.

**Local Expenditures:** The commission advises that binding arbitration will require it to utilize additional services by its outside labor counsel, at a cost of approximately \$5,500. The cost of the arbitrator is to be split between M-NCPPC and the bargaining representative. The estimated cost for an arbitration is \$1,500 to \$2,000 per day. The commission estimates that the arbitration process would take from 15 to 30 days. Legislative Services advises that the process could be as short as five days. The cost of the arbitrator could therefore range from \$7,500 to \$60,000, split between the parties. In total, administrative expenditures for M-NCPPC could increase by \$9,250 to \$35,500 to implement binding arbitration.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2002  
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