

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 170 (Dorchester County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Dorchester County - Correctional Services - Inmate Welfare Fund

This bill provides that the chief financial officer for Dorchester County or the managing official of the local correctional facility as designated by Dorchester County must separately hold and account for the inmate welfare fund, and must pay out money from the fund as approved in the county budget.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements will be handled with the existing budgeted resources of Dorchester County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 142 of 2002 authorized the establishment of an inmate welfare fund in each local correctional facility.

Each fund is a special continuing, nonlapsing fund that may be used only for goods and services that benefit the general inmate population, as defined by regulations adopted by the managing official of each facility.

Each fund consists of profits derived from the sale of goods through the commissary operation and telephone and vending machine commissions and money received from

other sources. Money from the State general fund or a county's general fund, including any federal funds, may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to a county's inmate welfare fund.

The county's chief financial officer is required to separately hold and account for each fund. Each fund is required to be invested and reinvested in the same manner as other county funds. Any investment earnings of a fund must be credited to the fund.

The county chief financial officer is required to pay out money from each fund as approved by the county budget.

Background: The changes made by Chapter 142 of 2002 were made due to specified accounting requirements contained in Statement No. 34 issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 461 (Senator Colburn) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2003
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