

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 15 (Delegate Boschert)
Judiciary

Courts - Drug Treatment Court - Drug Treatment Court Commission

This bill requires the Judiciary's Drug Treatment Court Commission to present an annual oral report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee within seven days after the General Assembly convenes for a regular session and to present an annual written report to the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2003 and terminates September 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The cost of preparing the reports could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The reports shall address the implementation status of drug treatment courts throughout the State, including:

- the effectiveness of the commission in developing and implementing drug treatment courts;
- the facilitation of identifying and acquiring funding for all components of drug treatment court operations;

- the establishment of standards and guidelines for licensed treatment providers and for drug treatment court components; and
- the establishment of training regarding drug treatment court policies, services, and practices.

Current Law: The Judiciary’s Drug Treatment Court Commission was established by order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals dated October 23, 2001. Its purpose is to standardize and advance drug treatment court programs statewide. The commission’s 26 members include judges, legislators, and members from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the State’s Attorney, addiction treatment community, Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Maryland Association of County Health Officers, private criminal bar, and each operating drug treatment court.

Background: Drug treatment courts focus on nonviolent drug offenders. They combine extensive supervision of participants with comprehensive drug treatment programs. They also reintroduce participants into society by providing life skills services, such as job placement, assistance with housing, and help in reuniting with their families.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have established drug courts either statewide or in some jurisdictions. Maryland currently has four adult drug treatment courts – in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Harford, and Prince George’s counties; and two juvenile drug treatment courts – in Baltimore City and Talbot County. Additional drug treatment courts are currently in the planning stages for Baltimore County (juvenile), Cecil County, Howard County, and Wicomico County (juvenile).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

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