

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 287

(Delegate Sophocleus, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Public General Laws - Evidence of the Law

This bill establishes both the Annotated Code of Maryland published by the Michie Company (Michie Code) and the 2002 Edition of the Annotated Code of Maryland published by West, of Eagan, Minnesota (West Code) as evidence of the law of the public general laws of the State. The bill also provides that the code of public general laws compiled and maintained by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) is evidence of the law, and modifies certain duties of DLS.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to have a significant impact on DLS expenditures.

Local Effect: Potential minimal savings if West reduces the price of its code below that charged by Michie.

Small Business Effect: Potential savings for small businesses if West reduces the price of its code below that charged by Michie.

Analysis

Current Law: The Michie Code is adopted as evidence of the public general laws of the State.

DLS is responsible for maintaining the structural integrity and textual accuracy of the codified laws of the State. DLS must also make copies of the code available to members of the General Assembly upon request.

Background: The price of the Michie Code and the West Code are identical; currently \$725 per set. DLS spends approximately \$140,000 per year on the Michie Code; the price reflects a 30% discount from the standard rate because of the proofreading and other services DLS provides to Michie.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 180 (Senator Giannetti, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
ncs/cer Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2003

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