

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 970  
Appropriations

(Delegates Gordon and Hixson)

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**Public Safety - Law Enforcement Equipment Fund - Adjustment for Consumer Price Index**

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This bill requires the Governor to include a specified funding amount in the fiscal 2006 State budget for the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund. This amount equals the level of the appropriations to the fund in fiscal 2004 adjusted for inflation and the number of local law enforcement officers in Maryland.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004 and terminates on June 30, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The Law Enforcement Equipment Fund has not received any funding since its establishment in 2001.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A mandated funding level for the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund is not statutorily required. The fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to Section 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article. As such, unspent fund balances do not revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

**Background:** Chapter 603 of 2001 established the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring equipment needed to address violent crime. Law enforcement equipment includes body armor, crime tracking technology, photo imaging equipment, surveillance devices, weapons, ammunition, and communication devices. County and municipal law enforcement agencies that provide police protection functions are eligible to receive a grant from the fund.

The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention is required to establish application procedures with grants being awarded based on the comparative needs of each law enforcement agency with priority given to jurisdictions with the highest incidence of violent crime. The executive director is required to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1 of each year on the distribution of the fund. This report has never been submitted to the Legislative Library or the Department of Legislative Services.

**State Fiscal Effect:** According to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund has not received any funding since it was established in 2001. Since the mandated funding level in fiscal 2006 is based on the fund's appropriation in 2004, the bill will have no effect on State expenditures.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2004  
mam/jr

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