

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1242

(Delegate Shank, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Task Force to Study Criminal Offender Monitoring by Global
Positioning Systems

This bill creates a Task Force to Study Criminal Offender Monitoring by Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to study: (1) how the State can utilize GPS technology to monitor certain individuals who have committed criminal offenses; (2) how law enforcement can benefit from linkage to such technology to solve crimes and streamline workload; (3) the feasibility of implementing a global positioning technology program, including a cost benefit analysis; and (4) admissibility of evidence issues. The task force must submit an interim report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2004 and a final report by December 31, 2005. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is required to provide staffing to the task force.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004 and terminates after December 31, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DPSCS are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: GPS was developed by the U.S. Department of Defense to provide all-weather round-the-clock navigation capabilities for military ground, sea, and air forces. Since its implementation, GPS has also become an integral asset in numerous civilian applications and industries around the globe, employing 24 satellites. The full 24-satellite system was completed on March 9, 1994. The accuracy using a typical civilian GPS receiver is typically about 100 meters.

Florida has been using GPS technology to monitor criminal offenders for several years. Currently, 700 offenders are being tracked. Florida has reportedly cut its recidivism rate from 50% to 3% since the inception of the program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 783 (Senator Munson, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2004
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