

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1484  
 Judiciary

(Delegate Marriott)

**Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland**

This bill creates a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland to study available information on: (1) the scope, nature, patterns, and causal relationships of violence in the State’s prisons; (2) the impact of illegal drugs on violence in the State’s prisons; (3) the impact of exposure to lead and other pollutants on violence in the State’s prisons; and (4) the best practices of other state correctional systems in dealing with prison violence. The task force must meet monthly and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is required to provide staffing. Findings and recommendations are due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2007.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2006 and terminates September 30, 2008.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. General fund expenditures increase by \$28,200 in FY 2007 for contractual support staff for DPSCS. Expenditures for FY 2008 reflect inflation and the date of the final report of the task force.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	28,200	18,400	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$28,200)	(\$18,400)	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Background:** The 2005 *Joint Chairmen's Report* required DPSCS to report quarterly, beginning July 1, 2005, on inmate assaults for the correctional and detention facilities. DPSCS developed and instituted the use of new software – the Facility Incident Reporting Manager (FIRM) – designed to collect assault data and eliminate some of the human error variations in the collection method used prior to July 1, 2004.

According to the most recent report (October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005), the Division of Correction had a total of 157 inmate-on-staff assaults, and the inmate-on-inmate assaults totaled 322. The Division of Pretrial Detention and Services had 9 inmate-on-staff assaults for the quarter, and 91 inmate-on-inmate assaults. At the Patuxent Institution there were 12 inmate-on-staff assaults and 12 inmate-on-inmate assaults.

Most of the assaults for all facilities were of the less serious physical assault category.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 1060 (Senator Jones, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2006  
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