

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1376 (Delegate Rosenberg)
 Judiciary

Correctional Services - Offender Rehabilitation and Reentry Pilot Program

This bill creates an Offender Rehabilitation and Reentry Pilot Program in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to provide grants to reentry service programs.

The bill terminates December 31, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$46,800 in FY 2007 to hire a program administrator. FY 2008 through 2010 include \$250,000 per year for grant awards.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	46,800	304,400	306,900	279,700	0
Net Effect	(\$46,800)	(\$304,400)	(\$306,900)	(\$279,700)	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: By January 1, 2007, DPSCS is required to establish an Offender Rehabilitation and Reentry Pilot Program in at least two areas of the State to provide

grants to qualified reentry service programs to assist in the reduction of recidivism of ex-offenders. DPSCS must select the pilot areas and select designated qualified reentry service programs in each pilot area.

For fiscal 2008, and each succeeding fiscal year, the Governor is required to include \$250,000 in the State budget to accomplish the bill's provisions.

The bill specifies that DPSCS must:

- cooperate with, assist, and provide technical assistance to the designated reentry service programs within the pilot program;
- provide grants out of State funds dedicated for this pilot program to designated reentry service programs;
- develop a procedure for local reentry service programs to apply for a grant in accordance with these provisions; and
- adopt regulations necessary to carry out these provisions.

Current Law and Background: In November 2003, DPSCS announced a philosophical shift from a system that focuses on confinement and control to one that focuses on rehabilitation and cognitive restructuring. While DPSCS has always offered some rehabilitative programming, the department has decided that increasing the amount and quality available will help combat rising recidivism rates.

The department launched the Reentry Enforcement Services Targeting Addiction, Rehabilitation, and Treatment (RESTART) program at two pilot sites in January 2005. The two pilot sites are the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC) in Hagerstown and the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) in Jessup. MCTC is a medium-security institution, and MCI-W is a multilevel security institution.

Fiscal 2006 was the first full year of RESTART programming offerings. The fiscal 2006 allowance included a total of \$5.2 million for the two RESTART pilot programs. This included approximately \$1.2 million for education programs, \$2.0 million for the therapeutic communities at the two pilot sites, and associated personnel expenses. The department expected a total of 1,814 inmates, or about 8% of the Division of Correction (DOC) population, to participate in RESTART in fiscal 2006. Of that total, 890 are at MCTC and the remaining 924 are at MCI-W.

The department has proposed to expand RESTART to the prerelease system during fiscal 2007, and the fiscal 2007 budget allowance includes an approximately \$542,000 increase entirely for the expansion of the program to the prerelease system – there is no increase in

the allowance for the original two pilot sites. The increase does include the addition of 13 new full-time positions.

To prevent recidivism, RESTART is described as a coordinated approach to serving the needs of inmates before they are released. RESTART initiative programs include expanded educational offerings (including more occupational courses and night and transitional courses), addictions treatment, mental health services, and case management. Additionally, social workers within DOC are working with Division of Parole and Probation employees to develop release plans for an inmate prior to the inmate leaving the correctional institution. There are also a number of community partners that have been recruited to assist with inmate transitioning services before and after release, including the AFL-CIO, Catholic Charities, Girl Scouts of America, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$46,844 in fiscal 2007, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2006 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual administrator to implement the pilot program and prepare for the award of grants to qualified reentry service programs. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Positions	1
Contractual Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$41,177
Other Operating Expenses	<u>5,667</u>
Total FY 2007 State Expenditures	\$46,844

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.6% annual increases and 6.8% employee turnover; (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses; and (3) \$250,000 in general funds for grant awards.

Additional Comments: Legislative Services notes that, although these provisions terminate half way through fiscal 2010, the bill requires the Governor to include \$250,000 in the State budget for 2010 also.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2006
mam/jr

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