

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 70

(Senator Jones, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Task Force to Study Identity Theft

This emergency bill extends the termination date for the Task Force to Study Identity Theft to January 31, 2008 and alters the date for reporting findings and recommendations to the General Assembly to December 31, 2007.

The bill terminates on January 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources. General fund expenditures increase \$20,000 in FY 2008 only to meet the survey requirement, otherwise, staffing could be provided with existing resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	20,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$20,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Task Force to Study Identity Theft was created by Chapters 241 and 242 of 2005 to study the problems associated with identity theft in Maryland. The task force is charged with studying the adequacy of current Maryland law in deterring identity theft, the privacy laws of other states, and issues related to restricting information provided in consumer reports.

To accomplish its tasks, the task force is required to consult with relevant federal agencies, agencies in other states, and identity theft experts, as well as complete a survey of State agencies to determine compliance with State and federal laws relating to the collection and use of Social Security numbers. Staff to the task force is provided by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). The task force was required to report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2006. Chapters 241 and 242 terminate on January 31, 2007.

Background: While some appointments to the task force were completed in 2005 after the laws establishing the task force became effective, the task force was not fully appointed until August 2006. After all appointments were completed, the task force was able to meet only once in 2006 (November 15) due to the legislative campaign season.

The task force submitted a report to the Governor and the General Assembly in December 2006. In its report, the task force recommended that legislation be enacted to authorize continuation of the task force for an additional year, to allow it to investigate identity theft issues and present recommendations, including statutory changes, regarding possible remedies to deter and prevent identity theft.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for DLS could increase by an estimated \$20,000 in fiscal 2008 for the development and completion of the survey on executive agency use of Social Security numbers required by the bill. This expenditure was originally contemplated for fiscal 2006, but was not incurred because the task force did not meet in fiscal 2006. Staffing requirements could be met with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 26 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*) – Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2007
ncs/jr

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