

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 69

(Senator Jones, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland

This bill creates the Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland to evaluate 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; (4) the best practices of other state correctional systems in dealing with prison violence; (5) the impact of contraband on violence in the State's prisons; (6) the role of gang activity on violence in the State's prisons; and (7) other issues that the task force considers relevant. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is required to provide staffing. An interim report is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2007. A final report of the findings and recommendations of the task force is due by December 31, 2008.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates January 31, 2009.

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 \$26,900 in FY 2008 for one contractual support staff for DPSCS. Expenditures for FY 2009 reflect inflation and the due date of the final report of the task force.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	26,900	17,500	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$26,900)	(\$17,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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 (July 1, 2006 – September 30, 2006), the Division of Correction had a total of 155 inmate-on-staff assaults, and 457 inmate-on-inmate assaults. The Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (charged with supervision over the Baltimore City Detention Center and the central booking unit) had 19 inmate-on-staff assaults for the quarter, and 142 inmate-on-inmate assaults. At the Patuxent Institution there were four inmate-on-staff assaults and six inmate-on-inmate assaults.

Most of the assaults for all facilities were of the less serious physical assault category. Copies of each quarterly report are sent to the budget committees and the Department of Legislative Services' library.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 1060 of 2006 had a hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and had no further action taken on it. HB 1484 of 2006 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2007
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