

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 707

(Chair, Appropriations Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – State Police)

Appropriations

Budget and Taxation

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**Department of State Police - State Aid for Police Protection Fund - Transfer to  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**

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This departmental bill transfers the administration of the State Aid for Police Protection Fund from the Department of State Police to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP).

The bill is effective July 1, 2008 and expresses an intent of the General Assembly that GOCCP administer the fund with existing resources.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. GOCCP would abide by the bill's expressed legislative intent and administer the fund with existing budgeted resources. If additional resources become eventually necessary, GOCCP may need to increase general fund expenditures by about \$50,000 per year for one additional contractual grants coordinator. Such an increase would be subject to review and approval via normal budgetary processes.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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## Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Financial grants are made to the counties and qualifying municipal corporations for the exclusive purpose of providing adequate police protection. They are provided under a State Aid for Police Protection Fund, which was established in 1967. Qualifying expenditures under this fund include salaries and wages, other operating expenses, capital outlays from current operating funds, and properly identifiable debt service paid for police protection. Expenditures for sheriffs and constables are included only to the extent that such officers perform police protection functions. Expenditures for traffic control, park police, and a central alarm system are included. Expressly prohibited are expenditures for collecting from or servicing parking meters and for jail construction or operating costs. Essentially, the police aid formula distributes funds on a per capita basis. The program is commonly known as the police aid formula. All general funds allocated to this fund are spent during the fiscal year and there is no balance carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Baltimore City was excluded from the police aid formula beginning in fiscal 1992 when the State assumed the responsibility of operating and funding the Baltimore City Detention Center. In fiscal 1995, the State established a central booking facility for the city. Legislation was enacted that enables Baltimore City to receive a \$0.50 per capita grant for police aid beginning in fiscal 1997.

The municipal sworn police officer allocation was last changed by Chapter 444 of 1999, when it increased from \$1,200 to \$1,950 per officer. The actual number of sworn municipal officers is used when calculating the municipal sworn officer allocation for each fiscal year. Each qualifying municipality receives \$1,950 for each sworn police officer employed on a full-time basis. To qualify for grants, a municipality must have a minimum expenditure for police protection of \$5,000 annually and employ at least one qualified full-time police officer or have a minimum expenditure for police protection of \$80,000 annually and employ at least two qualified part-time officers from a county police department or county sheriff's department. For purposes of the police aid formula, Baltimore City is not considered a municipality.

There are 156 municipalities in Maryland. Baltimore and Howard counties are the only counties in Maryland that do not have municipalities.

The Governor's fiscal 2009 budget allowance reflects a total of \$66.4 million in general funds to cover the annual police aid formulae, for 111 grants to counties and municipalities.

GOCCP is responsible for the development and revision of the Maryland Crime Control and Prevention Strategy. The strategy's four key elements involve targeting high-risk offenders; reclaiming at-risk neighborhoods; protecting and supporting victims; and preventing youth violence, drug use, and gangs. The office administers numerous federal and State grant programs and serves as a clearinghouse for information, research, and analysis relating to crime control and prevention policy. One of its identified key goals involves the administration of funds to State and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to improve the delivery of services.

The Governor's budget allowance for fiscal 2009 projects \$21.6 million in general fund grants from GOCCP to a variety of State and local grantees. GOCCP's operating expenses for fiscal 2009 (including all grants, subsidies, and contributions) totals about \$39.9 million.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2008  
mcp/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 6, 2008

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