

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1539 (Chair, Judiciary Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Public Safety and Correctional Services)

Judiciary

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Designation of Acting Secretary

This departmental bill requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to designate one of the following members of the Secretary's executive staff as acting secretary when the Secretary is out of state or otherwise unavailable: a deputy secretary, an assistant secretary, the Commissioner of Correction, the Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services, or the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation. The bill repeals the provision whereby the Secretary must designate a deputy secretary under such circumstances.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. While the bill may allow some operational efficiencies for the department, there is no fiscal impact.

Local Effect: None.

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

Analysis

Current Law: The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services must designate a deputy secretary as acting secretary when the Secretary is out of state or otherwise unavailable.

Background: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has one deputy secretary and two assistant secretaries. The agency reports that the current provision has created difficulties whenever the deputy secretary is (or is scheduled to be) out of state or unavailable at the same time as the Secretary.

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 17, 2008
mcp/jr

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