

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 461
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Finance

State Personnel - Incentive Awards - Review and Evaluation Process

This bill requires half of the members of a principal unit's Innovative Idea Program review committee to be selected from exclusive representatives, if any exist. This "labor-management" review committee must be consulted prior to the submission of ideas to the Governor's Award Panel. The bill also specifies that an employee may submit an innovative idea by application or through the employee's supervisor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An innovative idea award may be given for an idea that increases revenue, saves money, improves the quality of services, or otherwise significantly benefits the State. Heads of principal units in the Executive Branch of State government are required to establish a review committee to evaluate and recommend awards for innovative ideas by employees of that unit.

Within 60 days of receiving a submission, the head of the principal unit must decide whether to issue an innovative idea award. An award may be \$1,000 for an idea with a reasonably attainable monetary savings or gain for the State, or \$300 for ideas deemed to have a lesser impact.

The head of a principal unit may submit an exceptional idea to the Governor's Award Panel for further award consideration. Each year, the Governor's panel makes recommendations for additional innovative idea awards; an award may be up to \$20,000, or up to 20 days of administrative leave.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College, Maryland Department of Transportation, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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