

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 548
Judiciary

(Caroline County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

**Caroline County - Department of Corrections Employment Applicants - Lie
Detector Tests**

This bill authorizes the Caroline County Department of Corrections to require or demand that an applicant for employment as a correctional officer, or in any other capacity that involves direct contact with an inmate in the department, submit to or take a lie detector test.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Caroline County expenditures may increase by \$600 to \$2,000 each year, beginning in FY 2010. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With certain specified exceptions, an employer may not require or demand, as a condition of employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a lie detector or similar test. In addition to State and local law enforcement officers, specified exceptions include an individual who applies for employment or is employed as a correctional officer at the Baltimore City Jail and local detention centers in the following counties: Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, and St. Mary's.

Other exceptions include individuals who apply for employment or who are employed as correctional officers or other positions involved in direct personal contact with inmates in the Washington County and Calvert County detention centers. An applicant for employment as a correctional officer with the Department of Corrections for Prince George's County or the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention facilities is also exempt.

Local Fiscal Effect: Caroline County anticipates that four to eight applicants per year will apply for positions covered under the bill that may require a preemployment polygraph examination. At a cost of \$150 to \$250 per examination, county expenditures may increase by \$600 to \$2,000 annually. It is assumed that all such costs can be handled with the county's existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Caroline County; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2009
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