

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1128
Judiciary

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Prince George's County - Sheriff and Sheriff's Deputies - Alteration of Duties
PG 304-09

This bill repeals the termination date on Chapter 618 of 2007, which altered the duties of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. The bill also repeals the termination date on the required memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county sheriff's office and the county police department.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Making permanent the codification of current duties of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office will not materially impact county finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 618 of 2007 altered the duties of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office to be those authorized by the county council, including responding to domestic violence calls, acting as school resource deputies in county schools, and providing security for a county public school sporting event or extracurricular activity. In addition, the sheriff's office may investigate any matter germane to these duties. The authorized additional duties were required to be enumerated by a MOU between the Prince George's County Police Department and the sheriff's office, which may be revised only by the county council. Chapter 618 and the MOU are effective until September 30, 2010.

The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office is also authorized to:

- make arrests;
- serve all writs, summonses, orders, petitions, subpoenas, warrants, rules to show cause, and all other legal papers;
- supervise prisoners at any of the county detention centers, hospitals, penal institution, and other places of confinement;
- secure all State and county courts and perform such duties required of them by the courts;
- transport all legally detained prisoners; and
- enforce casino night permits as authorized by the county's governing body.

Generally, the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office may not conduct criminal investigations, except in matters concerning the sheriff's office; on request of the courts; as necessary for enforcing casino night permits; or in matters arising out of or incident to normally assigned duties.

Background: Prince George's County advised that deputy sheriffs already performed the duties specified in HB 680 of 2007 (Chapter 618), thus that bill merely codified those duties. According to the fiscal 2009 approved county budget, the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office has 263 sworn officers, while the county police department has 1,786 sworn officers. Total funding to the agencies include \$36.2 million for the county sheriff's office and \$270.7 million for the county police department.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2009
ncs/mwc

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