

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 453
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)

Finance

**Washington County - Emergency Communications Center - Polygraph
Examinations**

This bill specifies that applicants for employment with the Washington County Emergency Communications Center may be required to take a lie detector test.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None. Washington County advises that multiple county law enforcement agencies have the capacity to perform polygraph examinations; thus, administering polygraph examinations to applicants for employment with the Emergency Communications Center can be handled with existing resources.

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. Applicants for employment as correctional officers with the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities, the Caroline County Department of Corrections, or the Department of Corrections for Prince George's County are also exempt.

Background: Applicants for employment as law enforcement dispatchers in Washington County formerly were eligible to undergo a polygraph test during their application process because dispatchers were previously employed by an exempt local law enforcement agency. They are no longer eligible because the Emergency Communications Center in Washington County is now an independent entity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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