

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1128
Appropriations

(Delegate Serafini, *et al.*)

State Personnel - Innovative Idea Awards Program - Additional Cash Awards

This bill specifies that the cash award issued by the Governor's Award Panel for an innovative idea with a reasonably ascertainable monetary savings or gain must be equal to 10% of the State's savings or gain. The total amount of the award may not exceed \$20,000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Assuming the Governor's Award Panel remains inactive, the bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: 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. Each head of a principal unit in the Executive Branch of State government is required to establish a labor-management review committee to evaluate and recommend awards for innovative ideas by employees of that unit.

The labor-management review committee must decide whether to issue an innovative idea award. An award may be up to \$1,000 for an idea with a reasonably attainable monetary savings or gain for the State, or up to \$300 for ideas deemed to have a lesser impact.

The labor-management review committee submits ideas for which an award has been made to the Governor's Award Panel for further award consideration. The Governor's Award Panel may make recommendations for additional innovative idea awards. An award from the Governor's panel may be up to \$20,000, and/or up to 20 days of administrative leave. According to the Governor's Office, the Governor's Award Panel has been inactive since 1998; thus, the panel has issued no awards for innovative ideas in at least 12 years.

One State agency, the Maryland Department of Transportation, issued innovative idea awards in fiscal 2009. The department acknowledged 26 innovative ideas and awarded a total of \$754.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill does not impact State finances or operations assuming that the Governor's Award Panel remains inactive. However, if the panel were to reconvene and begin issuing awards, it is unlikely that the amount included in awards would be significantly affected due to the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

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