

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 499

(Senator Raskin)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Correctional Services - Division of Parole and Probation - Supervision Fee

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to explain and provide information on applying for an exemption from the assessment of a \$40 monthly supervision fee applicable to a person supervised by the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) for the Maryland Parole Commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Legislation adopted in 1991 mandated the imposition of monthly supervision fees for offenders supervised by DPP. Until 2005, the monthly fees of \$40 for parolees and mandatory supervision releases and \$25 for probationers had remained unchanged since their inception. Chapter 444 of 2005 (Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2005) increased the supervision fee charged to probationers to \$40 per month for five years, making the monthly fee consistent for all supervisees. The supervision fees collected are paid into the general fund. Probationers under supervision before 2005, continue to pay the \$25 monthly fee.

Both the Maryland Parole Commission and DPP are within the DPSCS.

Background: As of December 31, 2009, DPP was supervising about 9,850 parolees and mandatory release supervisees.

According to the Parole Commission, there has been a recent significant increase in the number of requests to reduce supervision fees or to exempt supervisees from the fees. The increase is attributed by the commission to recent seminars conducted by the commission that provided information about making such requests. The commission advises that all of the requests for exemption for reduction of or exemption from the supervision fees have been granted.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1222 (Delegate Ramirez, *et al.*) – Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole Commission), Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2010
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Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510