

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1126
Judiciary

(Delegate Glenn, *et al.*)

Circuit Court for Baltimore City - Jury Duty - Parking

This bill requires the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to provide free parking accommodations to any prospective, qualified, or sworn juror during any time period for which the juror is required to be in attendance at or in proximity to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Significant increase in expenditures and decreased parking tax revenue for Baltimore City. Under one set of assumptions, the bill may cost Baltimore City approximately \$498,000 per year. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect if Baltimore City has to use private parking garages to meet the bill's requirements and the bill encourages more people to drive to jury duty in Baltimore City.

Analysis

Current Law: Individuals required to be in attendance at or proximity to a circuit court for jury service are generally entitled to a per diem payment of \$15 for each day of service. Trial jurors are entitled to a per diem of \$50 for each day of service in excess of five days. Each county and Baltimore City may supplement the State per diem amount by local ordinance.

While jurors may spend their per diems on expenses incurred during their service, such as parking, courts are not required to pay for juror parking.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore City advises that the bill would result in approximately \$1.1 million in increased expenditures and decreased parking tax revenues. This estimate is based on (1) parking payments for 81% of the 69,100 jurors who serve in Baltimore City's circuit court each year; and (2) a \$12 daily parking rate. Legislative Services advises that due to the availability and widespread use of public transportation in Baltimore City, the assumptions used in Baltimore City's estimate may exceed actual experience under the bill.

However, if 50% of the 69,100 jurors will require paid parking and parking rates in the area surrounding the court house average \$12 per day, the bill would result in \$414,600 in increased expenditures for parking payments and a decrease of \$82,920 in parking tax revenue, resulting in a net loss of \$497,520.

It should also be noted that paid parking may serve as an incentive for jurors to drive to jury duty in Baltimore City. Should that occur, the fiscal impact of the bill may be greater than estimated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1292 of 2010 was withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2011
mm/kdm

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