

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 63
Judiciary

(Wicomico County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Wicomico County - Employees - Criminal History Records Checks

This bill authorizes Wicomico County to request State and national criminal history records checks for a prospective or current county employee. The records checks are confidential, may not be re-disseminated, and may only be used for an employment purpose authorized under the bill.

Specifically, the bill authorizes the Wicomico County Director of Administration to apply to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository for the records checks by forwarding two complete sets of the applicant's fingerprints to the Central Repository. The fees for each records check application are paid by the county. The county executive must propose and the county council must adopt guidelines if carrying out the authorized provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Central Repository can handle the bill's authorizations with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Wicomico County expenditures may increase by approximately \$7,300 annually. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Similar statutory authority exists for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington counties.

Local Fiscal Effect: The total cost for each criminal history records check and fingerprinting is \$54.50, which includes State and national background checks. Depending on whether Wicomico County implements the authorized criminal history records checks, county expenditures will increase accordingly. Wicomico County estimates that county expenditures may increase by approximately \$7,300 per year, reflecting the potential for 134 new hires. These positions are primarily for part-time, temporary personnel dedicated to individual recreation and parks events.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Wicomico County, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2012
mlm/hlb

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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