

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 876 (Senator DeGrange)
Budget and Taxation

Correctional Services - Standards for Correctional Facilities - Funding

This bill repeals a prohibition on the use of State funds to implement standards for State correctional facilities that are adopted or proposed by the American Correctional Association (ACA).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill has no impact on overall State expenditures; rather, it allows the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to use *existing* State funds for additional purposes, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Except as provided in the State budget, State funds may not be used to implement standards for State correctional facilities that are adopted or proposed by ACA.

Background: DPSCS advises that it is currently exploring membership with ACA. Of the State's 24 correctional facilities, only the Western Correctional Institution (Cumberland) and the Eastern Correctional Institution (Westover) are currently accredited by ACA.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill has no impact on overall State expenditures; rather, it allows DPSCS to use State funds *within its existing budget* for activities related to accrediting its facilities through ACA. If DPSCS chooses to accredit any of the 22 State correctional facilities that are not currently accredited by ACA, costs to accredit each facility are expected to total \$12,000 to \$15,000 every three years. Although the number of facilities for which accreditation will be sought in any given year is unknown, if all 22 facilities seek accreditation in the same year, accreditation costs total \$264,000 to \$330,000 in that year and every three years thereafter. DPSCS advises, however, that ACA provides accreditation discounts of 10% to 15% for multiple accreditations; thus, accreditation costs could be less. Any State funds used for accreditation purposes are simply shifted from other departmental activities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1494 (Delegate Conway, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2013
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