

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1495
Judiciary

(Delegate Conaway)

Crimes - Robbery Committed Against Elderly Persons - Penalties

This bill prohibits a person younger than age 50 from committing or attempting to commit a robbery against a victim who is older than age 62. Violators are guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to 18 years. A sentence imposed for this offense must be consecutive to any other sentence imposed for any crime establishing a violation of the bill's provisions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund expenditures due to the bill's incarceration penalty. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not commit or attempt to commit a robbery. A violator is guilty of a felony punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment.

Background: According to the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, there were 592 convictions for robbery in the State's circuit courts during fiscal 2013. Information is not available as to how many of these convictions were for acts involving a defendant younger than age 50 and a victim older than age 62.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase minimally as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to people being committed to State correctional facilities for longer periods of time. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is expected to be minimal. The bill's fiscal impact depends on (1) the number of cases that meet the bill's requirements; (2) the number of individuals sentenced to imprisonment for more than 15 years (the maximum sentence for robbery under existing statute) as a result of the bill; and (3) the effect of the bill's consecutive sentence provision.

Persons serving a sentence longer than 18 months are incarcerated in State correctional facilities. Currently, the average total cost per inmate, including overhead, is estimated at \$3,100 per month. This bill alone, however, should not create the need for additional beds, personnel, or facilities. Excluding overhead, the average cost of housing a new State inmate (including variable health care costs) is about \$735 per month. Excluding all health care, the average variable costs total \$185 per month.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/kdm

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