Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 388   (Delegates Dumais and Vallario)

Judiciary   Judicial Proceedings

Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council

This emergency bill establishes the Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council (JRCC) in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). The bill delineates the membership of JRCC and requires the chair of the council to be the Executive Director of GOCCP. A member of JRCC may not receive compensation, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses. GOCCP must provide staff for JRCC.

JRCC must (1) using a data-driven approach, develop a statewide framework of sentencing and corrections policies to further reduce the State's incarcerated population, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism and (2) request technical assistance from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States to develop the policy framework. JRCC also must convene an advisory stakeholder group, as specified, and conduct roundtable discussion forums for public input from all geographic regions of the State. JRCC must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2015.

The bill terminates December 31, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for council members and staffing costs for GOCCP are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: In January 2010, the CSG Justice Center, in partnership with the Pew Center on the States, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Public Welfare Foundation, hosted a national summit on justice reinvestment. Since that time, several additional entities, including the states of Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin, have partnered with CSG.

In general, CSG justice reinvestment initiatives seek to devise strategies and policy options to "avert prison population growth by reducing property crime, holding offenders accountable with supervision, reinvesting to strengthen supervision policies and practices to reduce recidivism, and supporting victims of property crime."

On February 2, 2015, President Obama unveiled his fiscal 2016 budget proposal. The proposed federal budget allocates $1.14 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance, including $45 million to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for continuing justice reinvestment efforts nationwide. According to CSG, the federal fiscal 2014 and 2015 budgets allocated $27.5 million in funds for this purpose, which are intended to assist state and local governments to "conduct comprehensive, data-driven analyses of their criminal justice systems and adopt smart, evidence-based policies designed to reduce corrections spending and increase public safety."

The federal funding for justice reinvestment initiatives is in addition to continued, proposed fiscal 2016 criminal justice funding for the Second Chance Act ($120 million), the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act ($14 million), Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants ($388 million), and the Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant ($20 million). The proposed fiscal 2016 federal budget also includes funding for various school safety initiatives.

CSG advises that North Carolina and West Virginia have implemented justice reinvestment strategies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 602 (Senator Miller, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Council of State Governments, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2015
md/lgc   Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2015

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