

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 391 (Senators Hershey and Smith)  
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**General Assembly Standing Committees - Posting of Written Testimony on Web Site**

This bill requires the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to publish on the General Assembly website the written testimony for each bill or resolution reported to the floor by a standing committee of the General Assembly within 10 days after the committee’s voting session on the bill or resolution. Before reporting a bill to the floor, the standing committee must deliver any written testimony related to a bill or resolution to DLS. Testimony published on the General Assembly website must be linked to the related bill or resolution.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures by DLS increase by \$232,700 in FY 2018 to hire staff to scan and upload written testimony on the General Assembly website. Future year expenditures reflect annualization. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	232,700	198,300	205,700	213,500	221,600
Net Effect	(\$232,700)	(\$198,300)	(\$205,700)	(\$213,500)	(\$221,600)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Generally, a standing committee, in carrying out any of its functions or powers, may (1) issue subpoenas; (2) compel the attendance of witnesses; (3) compel the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony; (4) administer oaths; and (5) cause the depositions of witnesses, who reside in or outside of the State, to be taken in the manner provided by law for taking depositions in a civil case.

**Background:** Live and archived video streaming is available for all public hearings held by standing committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate. Standing committee votes are published on the General Assembly website after a bill is reported out of a standing committee. Written testimony is not normally available online; for each legislative session, General Assembly standing committees receive thousands of pages of written testimony on the bills they consider. Standing committees retain written testimony in committee files for one or two years at which time they transfer the files, including written testimony, to the DLS library. The library maintains files with written testimony dating back to 1975 either on microfilm or in hard copy. The public can view committee files in the library by request or receive up to 35 pages of material electronically or in print. Files from the 1970s through the 1990s are on microfilm.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$232,654 in fiscal 2018, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2017 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time information technology specialist to implement the document uploading requirements under the bill. It also includes 10 part-time contractual employees to collect, organize, and scan all written testimony received by each standing committee during the legislative session. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs (including costs to purchase scanning equipment), and ongoing operating expenses.

Regular Position	1
Contractual Session (Part-time) Positions	10
Regular Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$65,565
Contractual Salaries and Fringe Benefits	109,330
Additional Equipment	51,040
Other Operating Expenses	<u>6,719</u>
<b>Total FY 2017 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$232,654</b>

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 278 (Delegate Moon, *et al.* - Rules and Executive Nominations) is designated as a cross file, but it is not identical.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2017  
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