

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1403
Judiciary

(Baltimore City Delegation, *et al.*)

**Baltimore City - Office of State's Attorney - Authority to Appoint Criminal
Investigators**

This bill authorizes the State's Attorney for Baltimore City to appoint criminal investigators, subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Council.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in special fund revenues for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to the extent that Baltimore City appoints criminal investigators who are sent to the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) for necessary training. State expenditures are not directly affected.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures may increase by approximately \$5,200 in one-time costs as early as FY 2018. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The State's Attorney may appoint full-time or part-time criminal investigators. If more than one investigator is appointed, the State's Attorney may designate one as the chief investigator and assign other ranks and titles to the other investigators. An investigator serves at the pleasure of the State's Attorney and must perform the duties designated by the State's Attorney. An investigator is subject to the regulations of the State's Attorney and must take an oath of office that the clerk of the circuit court administers. An investigator must meet the criteria regarding training and experience that the State's Attorney requires. The investigator may serve a summons or

subpoena that the State's Attorney issues and may wear or display appropriate metallic badges that the State's Attorney authorizes. The State's Attorney may designate a criminal investigator as a peace officer if the criminal investigator meets the selection and training standards of the Police Training Commission as set forth in statute. In addition to the authority, duties, and limitations set forth above, a criminal investigator designated as a peace officer may (1) arrest a person who commits a crime in the county or in a municipal corporation in Baltimore City; (2) serve a warrant, summons, or subpoena that has been issued by the District Court in Baltimore City or a circuit court; and (3) possess and carry a firearm, including a handgun or any other weapon that the State's Attorney requires.

A criminal investigator, whether designated as a peace officer or not, is not subject to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.

Current Law/Background: State statutory language does not address the duties or staff of the State's Attorney's Office in Baltimore City.

The Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights outlines certain procedures that must be followed in disciplining specified law enforcement officers.

State's Attorney's offices in 13 jurisdictions are specifically authorized in statute to hire criminal investigators or investigative staff. However, in only three of these jurisdictions (Dorchester, Garrett, and Talbot counties) do the investigators have traditional law enforcement powers such as the ones being proposed under the bill.

Baltimore City advises that its State's Attorney's Office already employs a team of investigators, and that up to five of the investigators are eligible to be appointed as a criminal investigator pursuant to the bill.

Local Expenditures: Subject to approval of the Mayor and the City Council, Baltimore City expenditures increase by approximately \$5,220 in the first year only (which may be as early as fiscal 2018, depending on when the approval is secured). This estimate includes costs associated with sending five investigators (who are already employed with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office) to MPCTC and purchasing badges and handcuffs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 409 (Baltimore City Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); State's Attorneys' Association; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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md/kdm

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