

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 254 (Delegate Grammer, *et al.*)
 Judiciary

Clerks of the Courts - Maryland Judiciary Case Search - Information on Judge or Magistrate

This bill requires the clerk of a court, when providing case information in the Maryland Judiciary Case Search, to include the name of the judge or magistrate who (1) after a hearing is held, presided over the hearing or (2) took judicial action, including granting a motion, issuing a summons or warrant, or entering a judgment. The bill has prospective application and only affects information for an active case entered into Case Search after the bill’s October 1, 2019 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$140,500 in FY 2020 only for programming changes. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	140,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$140,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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: Case Search provides online access to State court case records, as governed by Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records (Maryland Rules

16-901 through 16-912). Subject to various exceptions as set forth in statute and the Maryland Rules, information in Case Search generally includes the names of parties, case number, trial date, charge, and case disposition, among other items, for civil, criminal, and traffic cases. Information regarding the name of the judge or magistrate is not prohibited from being included, nor is it specifically required.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$140,454 in fiscal 2020 only for the Judiciary to make necessary programming changes. The Judiciary notes that case information is entered into multiple case management systems but is only displayed on Case Search. Otherwise, the bill does not materially affect the workload of the clerks' offices.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 2019
an/kdm

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