

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 271
Judiciary

Clerks of the Courts - Case Management System - Information

This bill requires the clerk of a court, including a clerk of the District Court, when providing case information for the case management system of the relevant court, 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 Administrative Office of the Courts must include this information when publishing case information for the Maryland Judiciary Case Search. The bill has prospective application and only affects information for an active case entered into Case Search after the bill's October 1, 2022 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by at least \$150,000 in FY 2023 only for programming changes. Otherwise, the bill does not materially affect the workload of the clerks' offices. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	150,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$150,000)	\$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: Case Search provides online access to State court case records, as governed by Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records. 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 326 of 2021 received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 75 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken. Similar legislation was also introduced in 2019.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2022
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