

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 602 (Senator McCray)
 Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Baltimore City – District Court – Jobs Court Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Jobs Court Pilot Program in the District Court sitting in Baltimore City. The purpose of the pilot program is to reduce recidivism by offering defendants an opportunity to participate in full-time job training and job placement programs as a condition of probation, an alternative to incarceration, or a condition of pretrial release. For fiscal 2024, the Governor must include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Baltimore Workforce Development Board, to be distributed to local workforce investment boards or other nonprofit entities that participate in the pilot program by identifying employers and training programs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$24,000 in FY 2023 for one-time programming costs. General fund expenditures increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2024, reflecting the mandated appropriation. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2024.**

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	24,000	500,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$24,000)	(\$500,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2024; expenditures increase correspondingly.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) must develop a plan to implement and monitor the pilot program. By June 30, 2027, AOC, in consultation with the Baltimore Workforce Development Board, must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the operation and results of the pilot program.

Current Law: There is no job courts pilot program authorized in statute. However, a project in the Baltimore City District Court, the District Court Re-Entry Project, has similar objectives.

State/Local Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by at least \$500,000 in fiscal 2024 due to the mandated appropriation. In addition, although it is assumed that the Baltimore City District Court program mentioned above will otherwise operate as the Jobs Court Pilot Program, the Judiciary anticipates incurring one-time programming costs of approximately \$24,000 in fiscal 2023 to implement the bill and streamline the program with the existing program. To the extent that additional support is provided to the existing program, expenditures increase accordingly.

The Baltimore Workforce Development Board, administratively housed within the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Employment Development, receives at least \$500,000 in mandated funding to distribute, as specified, to support the pilot program objectives in fiscal 2024. Thus, Baltimore City revenues increase to reflect receipt of the mandated appropriation; expenditures increase correspondingly as the funds are distributed, as specified in the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 574 of 2020, a similar bill, passed the Senate as amended and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HB 785 (Delegate R. Lewis) - Judiciary.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2022
js/jkb

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