

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 527
Judiciary

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Finance

St. Mary's County - Emergency Services Applicants - Polygraph Examinations

This bill exempts an applicant for employment as a paramedic or an emergency medical technician with St. Mary's County or with the St. Mary's County emergency communication center from the prohibition against an employer requiring or demanding, as a condition of employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a polygraph examination.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to St. Mary's County.

Local Effect: St. Mary's County expenditures increase by approximately \$10,000 annually beginning in FY 2023 to conduct 20 polygraph examinations each year during background investigations of specified applicants, at a cost of approximately \$500 per polygraph examination. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, an employer in the State may not require or demand, as a condition of employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a lie detector or similar test. Along with an individual who is an employee of or applies for assignment to the Intelligence Investigative Division of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, specified exceptions from this prohibition include an individual who applies for employment or is employed as:

- a law enforcement officer or an employee of a law enforcement agency;
- a correctional officer at a State or local correctional facility;
- an employee of a State correctional facility involved in direct personal contact with inmates;
- a communications officer in the Calvert County Control Center;
- a correctional officer at a local detention facility in Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, or St. Mary's counties; and
- a correctional officer or any other positions involved in direct personal contact with inmates at a local detention facility in Calvert, Carroll, or Washington counties.

An applicant for employment with the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities or the Caroline County Department of Corrections involved in direct contact with inmates and an applicant for employment with the Washington County Emergency Communications Center are also exempt.

An employer who violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of \$100.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2022
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