

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 587 (Senator McCray, *et al.*)
 Judicial Proceedings

Division of Parole and Probation - Duties - Offenders Under Supervision (Parole and Probation Performance Act)

This bill expands the duties of the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) by requiring it to examine and review murders involving offenders who are supervised by the division in order to advise the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services on policies and programs to prevent such murders, as specified. By December 31, 2022, and annually thereafter, DPP must report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee on (1) DPP activities intended to reduce the number of murders involving supervised offenders; (2) actions taken to examine and review murders, including policy and program recommendations made to the Secretary; and (3) the number of supervised offenders who were shooting victims, homicide victims, or charged with or identified as suspects in specified crimes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$323,000 in FY 2023. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	323,000	380,000	390,800	401,100	412,000
Net Effect	(\$323,000)	(\$380,000)	(\$390,800)	(\$401,100)	(\$412,000)

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: Generally, DPP:

- administers a validated screening tool on individuals on parole or mandatory supervision under supervision of DPP;
- administers a risk and needs assessment and develops an individualized case plan for individuals on parole or mandatory supervision who have been screened as moderate or high risk to reoffend;
- supervises individuals on parole or mandatory supervision based on the results of required validated screening tools or risk and needs assessments;
- supervises parolees;
- supervises individuals under mandatory supervision;
- regularly informs the Maryland Parole Commission of the activities of offenders it supervises;
- issues warrants for the retaking of an offender charged with a violation of parole or mandatory supervision; and
- administers the Drinking Driver Monitor Program.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for DPSCS increase by \$322,956 in fiscal 2023, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2022 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring five parole and probation agents within DPP to track, examine, and review the required information, make recommendations, and draft the required annual reports. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Positions	5.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$286,241
Operating Expenses	<u>36,715</u>
Total FY 2023 State Expenditures	\$322,956

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

DPSCS advises that 10 parole and probation agents, 2 supervisors, and 1 manager are needed to implement the bill. Assuming the supervisors and manager are existing staff reassigned from other duties, DPSCS estimates costs associated with hiring 10 agents at approximately \$660,000 in fiscal 2023, increasing to approximately \$780,000 by fiscal 2027. However, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) disagrees and advises that DPP currently has mechanisms in place to track homicide and nonfatal shooting victims and suspects who are supervised by the agency. In addition, the caseloads for parole

and probation agents have declined in recent years, and some caseloads are less than the recommended national average. To the extent that 5 additional employees are not sufficient to handle the increase in workload resulting from the bill, DPSCS may request additional positions through the annual budget process.

Additional Comments: For more information, please see the [scoping evaluation](#) of DPP published by the DLS Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in October 2020.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
Department of Legislative Services

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