

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 134 (Delegate Grammer)
 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, 2023 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by as much as \$272,300 in FY 2024 only for programming changes. Otherwise, the bill does not materially affect the workload of the clerks’ offices. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	272,300	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$272,300)	\$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.

State Fiscal Effect: The Judiciary advises that the bill necessitates extensive programming changes to the Judiciary's case management systems and additional programming in order to enable Case Search to include the required information. Accordingly, programming costs of up to \$272,300 are anticipated to be incurred in fiscal 2024 only.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 271 of 2022; HB 326 of 2021; and HB 75 of 2020.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2023
km/jkb

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