

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 864 (Senator Gladden)
Judicial Proceedings

Task Force on Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims

This bill establishes the Task Force on Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims, which is required to (1) identify and study the challenges facing families of homicide victims, particularly families living in urban, high-crime areas; (2) convene regional public forums to gather information and feedback from families of homicide victims; (3) consult with experts in the field on strategies for assisting families of homicide victims; and (4) make recommendations regarding how best to assist families of homicide victims. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2014. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) must provide staff for the task force.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014, and terminates June 30, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. Thus, the requirement to staff the task force and develop the report may not be absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of DJS. Instead, general fund expenditures may increase for DJS to hire contractual staff for six months to support the task force and complete the required study as well as for reimbursements for task force members. Such costs are estimated to total \$25,600 in FY 2015 only.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The Governor's proposed fiscal 2015 budget includes \$500,000 in general funds for a new grant program in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to assist families of homicide victims (referred to as the Victims of Crime Grant Program).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2014
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