

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 574

(Senators McCray and Guzzone)

Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Judiciary

**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 2022, the Governor must include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least \$250,000 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, 2020, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by at least \$250,000 in FY 2022. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2022.**

| (in dollars)   | FY 2021 | FY 2022     | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenues       | \$0     | \$0         | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     |
| GF Expenditure | 0       | 250,000     | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Net Effect     | \$0     | (\$250,000) | \$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 \$250,000 in FY 2022; 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, 2025, 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/Background:** 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 \$250,000 in fiscal 2022 due to the mandated appropriation. Otherwise, it is assumed that the Baltimore City District Court program mentioned above will operate as the Jobs Court Pilot Program using existing resources. 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 \$250,000 in mandated funding to distribute, as specified, to support the pilot program objectives in fiscal 2022. 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.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Governor's Office; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2020  
rh/lgc Third Reader - March 17, 2020  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2020

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