

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 792  
Judiciary

(Washington County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

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Correctional Facilities - Inmate Programs in Washington County - Payment of  
Child Support

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This bill requires an inmate participating in a home detention, work release, or pretrial release program administered by the Washington County Sherriff's Office to be responsible for costs of child support.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None. Adding child support to the responsibilities of an inmate in Washington County does not affect county operations or finances. Enforcement of the bill's requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the sheriff's office.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Inmates participating in a home detention, work release, or pretrial release program administered by the Washington County Sherriff's Office are responsible for covering their own medical expenses and costs relating to lodging, food, clothing, transportation, and court-ordered restitution. In addition, the sherriff is authorized to collect a reasonable fee from each inmate participating in such programs.

In general, an inmate who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment lasting 18 consecutive months or more is not obligated to pay child support during the period when the inmate is

actually incarcerated or during the 60 days after the inmate's release from confinement. However, the Child Support Enforcement Administration may require an inmate who is on work release to make child support payments if the inmate has sufficient financial resources to do so. Currently, Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties all authorize child support payments to be deducted from the earnings of an inmate in a local work release program.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 507 (Senator Shank, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2013  
ncs/lgc

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