

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 35

(Senator Shank)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Family Law - Domestic Violence Incident Report - Dissemination

This bill repeals a requirement for law enforcement agencies to provide a copy of a domestic violence incident report to the Department of State Police (DSP).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect the workload of DSP.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect the workload of local law enforcement agencies.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person who alleges to have been a victim of abuse and who believes there is danger of serious and immediate personal harm may request the help of local law enforcement. An officer responding to the request for help must protect the person from harm when responding to the request and accompany the person to the family home to enable the person to receive specified personal items, regardless of who paid for the items.

If an incident report is filed when an officer responds to a request for help, the officer must provide a copy of the report to DSP and, on request, to the victim.

Background: DSP advises that pursuant to existing practice, law enforcement agencies provide a summary of events in domestic violence calls as well as the actual incident

report. The information included in the summaries is sufficient for DSP to use for any reporting or tracking purposes, such as the preparation of the *Uniform Crime Report*.

According to the *2012 Uniform Crime Report*, 17,615 domestic violence crimes were reported in Maryland, a 3% decrease compared to the calendar 2011 total of 18,209. Assault was by far the most frequently reported crime, with 16,269 incidents in calendar 2012. Of reported assaults, simple assaults comprised 13,384 incidents. Aggravated assaults totaled 2,881, or 18%, of the reported domestic violence assaults for the same period.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 1024 of 2013 received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 7, 2014
ns/kdm

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