

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 916 (Senator Pugh)
 Budget and Taxation

Maryland Law Enforcement Communications Technology Procurement Task Force

This bill establishes the Maryland Law Enforcement Communications Technology Procurement Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding specified aspects of the procurement of communications technology by the State’s law enforcement agencies. The Department of General Services (DGS) staffs the task force. Members of the task force may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for standard travel expenses. By December 31, 2015, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015, and terminates June 30, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures by DGS increase by \$31,300 for FY 2016 only to staff the task force. Reimbursement for the travel expenses can likely be handled with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	31,300	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$31,300)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no current law specifically related to the procurement of communications technology by law enforcement agencies. The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is designated in statute as the control agency for all procurement of telecommunications equipment and services.

Background: Due to increasing demands for radio spectrum, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' Project 25, a long standing partnership between public safety organizations and industry manufacturers, seeks to satisfy the complex and evolving communication needs of public safety officials. Project 25 develops voluntary, consensus-based communication standards under the auspices of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), which is accredited by the American National Standards Institute. The standards published by TIA establish the basis upon which (1) manufacturers develop, implement, and offer P25 equipment and systems; (2) recognized laboratories conduct P25 compliance testing; and (3) users specify, procure, and operate P25 radios and communications infrastructure.

State Expenditures: DGS has no relevant expertise in the procurement of telecommunications equipment because DoIT controls such procurements for the State. Therefore, DGS must hire a contractual employee with such expertise to assist the task force with its work.

General fund expenditures by DGS increase by \$31,330 in fiscal 2016, which accounts for a one-month delay from the bill's June 1, 2015 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual employee for six months to staff the task force. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and other operating expenses.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$26,752
Operating Expenses	<u>4,578</u>
Total FY 2016 State Expenditures	\$31,330

The contractual position is assumed to terminate after six months, when the task force's report is due. Therefore, there are no out-year costs.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1246 (Delegates Carter and Proctor) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of General Services; Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, Inc.; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 20, 2015
mar/ljm

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