

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 654

(Senator Hough, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties. The task force must designate a chair from its members, and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) must provide staff for the task force. By December 31, 2017, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursement for task force members and staffing costs for DLS are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) advises that assuming the commission does not need to conduct additional research to assist with its role on the task force and that the task force does not request information that MSCCSP currently does not accommodate, MSCCSP can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must:

- review the penalties for all criminal and civil violations throughout the Maryland Code;
- study the history and legislative intent of the classification of criminal and civil violations throughout the Maryland Code, including the constitutional implications and collateral consequences that arise as a result of classification;
- study criminal classifications and penalty schemes in other states and how those classifications and schemes compare to those in the State; and
- make recommendations regarding the current statutory scheme for criminal and civil violations throughout the Maryland Code, including (1) whether there are violations that should be reclassified; (2) whether there are penalties that should be altered; and (3) whether the State would benefit from imposition of a standardized classification and penalty.

A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1012 (Delegates Dumais and B. Wilson) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; State's Attorneys' Association; Department of Legislative Services

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