

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 236

(Senators Carter and Smith)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Jury Service - Qualification Criteria - Criminal Conviction or Charge

This bill increases, from more than six months to more than one year, the length of time of a criminal sentence or potential sentence that disqualifies an individual from jury service.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect the workload of the Judiciary or the Office of the Public Defender (OPD).

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect the workload of the circuit courts or State's attorneys' offices.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each adult citizen of the State has both the opportunity for jury service and, when summoned, the duty to serve. However, an individual is not qualified for jury service in specified circumstances, including if the individual (1) has been convicted, in a federal or State court, of a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding six months and received a sentence of imprisonment for more than six months or (2) has a charge pending in a federal or State court for a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding six months. An individual with a disqualifying conviction who has been pardoned qualifies for jury service.

State/Local Fiscal Effect: Although the bill increases the number of prospective jurors in the State, potentially making the process of selecting a jury more efficient, any such impact

does not materially affect the workload of the Judiciary, circuit courts, OPD, or State's attorneys' offices.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 73 (Delegate Moon, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; Maryland State's Attorneys' Association; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2019
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