

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 573  
Judiciary

(Harford County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Harford County - Service of Process - Detention Center Employees**

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This bill expands the authority of individuals who have been designated to serve criminal process by the administrator of the Harford County Detention Center by allowing them to also serve process within the District Court of Maryland for Harford County and the county circuit court.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect Harford County operations or finances, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An “administrator” may designate employees of the local detention center to serve a criminal summons, warrant, or charging document. The authority of an individual designated to serve criminal process under this provision is limited to the service of process within the local detention center. An “administrator” includes the sheriff, director, superintendent, warden, or other officer in charge of a local detention center. The administrator must ensure that an employee designated to serve criminal process has received adequate training.

**State/Local Fiscal Effect:** Although authorizing designated individuals to serve criminal process within the specified courts may facilitate more efficient service in Harford County, any such impact does not materially affect State or local finances or operations.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 138 (Senator Cassilly, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Harford County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 2020  
md/lgc Third Reader - March 1, 2020

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