

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 950
Judiciary

(Delegate Washington)

Judges - Community and Cultural Awareness Training

This bill requires the State Court Administrator to ensure that each appellate, circuit court, and District Court judge receive annual training to increase community and cultural awareness that includes (1) antidiscrimination training; (2) antiracial bias training; (3) implicit bias training; (4) procedural justice training; (5) training on reconciliation techniques; and (6) antiblackness training.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures likely increase minimally, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Although judicial training requirements are not addressed in statute, a 2016 Administrative Order from Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera generally specifies training requirements for judges, including 12 hours of continuing judicial education annually. Pursuant to that order, the Judicial College of Maryland within the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as the primary entity through which judicial education is provided.

State Expenditures: The Judiciary advises that the development and implementation of a sustainable training program regarding the bill's various topics necessitates additional

resources, the extent of which cannot be determined at this time. The Department of Legislative Services notes that while the bill does not mandate specific training requirements (*e.g.*, a minimum number of hours or a specific curriculum), thereby providing the Judiciary with some discretion in meeting its requirements, the bill does include several new *annual* training topics for each judge that must be incorporated into the existing continuing judicial education program. Accordingly, it is assumed that expenditures likely increase, at least minimally, for the Judiciary to meet the bill's requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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md/jkb

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