

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

Senate Bill 953 (Senator Augustine)
 Judicial Proceedings

Domestic Terrorism Task Force

This bill establishes the Domestic Terrorism Task Force, to be staffed by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Generally, the task force is required to study and develop a plan to establish a statewide communication network for threats of domestic terrorism. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1, 2022. **The bill terminates October 31, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by *at least* \$60,000 in FY 2022 and \$21,900 in FY 2023. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	60,000	21,900	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$60,000)	(\$21,900)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifically requires the task force to:

- review the existing networks in the State to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;
- review the networks to communicate threats of domestic terrorism in other states and jurisdictions;
- review the best practices for implementing and providing a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;
- identify solutions to any limitations or feasibility issues with implementing or providing a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;
- study and develop a plan for implementing and providing a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;
- identify the appropriate State agency to oversee a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public; and
- develop a plan to notify the public of threats of domestic terrorism in a timely manner.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates must jointly designate the chair and vice chair of the task force from among the members appointed by the President and the Speaker. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

Current Law: Under federal law (18 U.S.C. § 2331), domestic terrorism means activities that (1) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; (2) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state; and (3) appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for MEMA increase by *at least* \$59,959 in fiscal 2022 and \$21,939 in fiscal 2023 for staffing costs associated with the task force. General fund expenditures increase further to the extent that MEMA requires contractual personnel beyond those included in this estimate, as discussed below.

MEMA advises that the following personnel are needed to fulfill the agency's staffing responsibilities under the bill: one full-time planner; one part-time program manager; and

one part-time administrative assistant. MEMA did not provide any additional information regarding the need for and specific responsibilities associated with these positions and did not respond to requests for additional information. Regardless, the Department of Legislative Services acknowledges that MEMA requires additional personnel to comply with the bill, especially given the agency’s ongoing responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, general fund expenditures for MEMA increase *at least* \$59,959 in fiscal 2022 and \$21,939 in fiscal 2023, which reflects the bill’s October 1, 2021 effective date and October 31, 2022 termination date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time contractual planner to assist MEMA in staffing the task force, developing a plan to establish a statewide communication network for threats of domestic terrorism, and preparing the required report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
New Contractual Position	1.0	0.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$54,378	\$21,723
One-time Start-up Costs	5,090	0
Operating Expenses	<u>491</u>	<u>216</u>
Minimum State Expenditures	\$59,959	\$21,939

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.

Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Military Department; Department of Legislative Services

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