

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

House Bill 785  
 Judiciary

(Delegate R. Lewis)

Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

**Courts - Baltimore City Jobs Court Pilot Program and Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund**

This bill establishes the Jobs Court Pilot Program in the District Court sitting in Baltimore City. From fiscal 2024 through 2028, the Governor must include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Baltimore Workforce Development Board, to be distributed to local workforce investment boards or other nonprofit entities that participate in the Jobs Court Pilot Program by identifying employers and training programs. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Judiciary to transfer up to \$12.0 million of its fiscal 2022 general fund appropriation to the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund by June 30, 2022; any amount transferred may not revert to the general fund. **The bill generally takes effect June 1, 2022. The provisions concerning the operations of the pilot program take effect July 1, 2023, and terminate June 30, 2028.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues decrease by up to \$12.0 million in FY 2022; special fund revenues increase by the same amount, as discussed below. General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$24,000 in FY 2024 for one-time programming costs. General fund expenditures further increase by at least \$500,000 annually in FY 2024 through 2028, reflecting the mandated appropriation. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation in FY 2024 through 2028.**

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
GF Revenue	(\$12,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Revenue	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$524,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	(\$524,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

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

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City revenues increase by at least \$500,000 annually in FY 2024 through 2028; expenditures increase correspondingly.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The purpose of the pilot program is to reduce recidivism by offering defendants an opportunity to participate in full-time job training and job placement programs as a condition of probation, an alternative to incarceration, or a condition of pretrial release.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) must develop a plan to implement and monitor the pilot program. By June 30, 2027, AOC, in consultation with the Baltimore Workforce Development Board, must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the operation and results of the pilot program.

**Current Law:** There is no job courts pilot program authorized in statute. However, a project in the Baltimore City District Court, the District Court Re-Entry Project, has similar objectives.

The Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund supports the operating and equipment expenses of the land records offices of the clerks of the circuit courts as well as the Judiciary's major information technology development projects. Revenues for the fund are generated through a recordation surcharge on all real estate transactions and other specified court surcharges.

**State Revenues:** The bill authorizes the transfer of up to \$12.0 million from the Judiciary's fiscal 2022 general fund appropriation to the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund by June 30, 2022. Assuming the Judiciary exercises its authority to transfer such funds, special fund revenues for the Judiciary increase by up to \$12.0 million in fiscal 2022. Correspondingly, under the assumption that, absent the bill, those funds would have reverted to the general fund, general fund revenues decrease by the same amount.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by at least \$500,000 annually from fiscal 2024 through 2028 due to the mandated appropriation. In addition, although it is assumed that the Baltimore City District Court program mentioned above will otherwise operate as the Jobs Court Pilot Program, the Judiciary anticipates incurring one-time programming costs of approximately \$24,000 in fiscal 2024 to implement the bill and

streamline the program with the existing program. To the extent that additional support is provided to the existing program, expenditures increase accordingly.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The Baltimore Workforce Development Board, administratively housed within the Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, receives at least \$500,000 annually in mandated funding to distribute, as specified, to support the pilot program objectives. Thus, Baltimore City revenues increase in fiscal 2024 through 2028 to reflect receipt of the mandated appropriation; expenditures increase correspondingly as the funds are distributed, as specified in the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 574 of 2020, a similar bill, passed the Senate as amended and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 602 (Senator McCray) - Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2022  
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