

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1199
Judiciary

(Delegate Wells)

Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees

This bill establishes the Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees, staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The workgroup must (1) study the impact of court-mandated fines and fees on low-income residents and the revenue structure that relies on court-mandated fines and fees and (2) develop a plan and legislative recommendations for eliminating or reducing court-mandated fines and fees. The workgroup must elect a chair from among its members. Workgroup members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The workgroup must report its plan and legislative recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for workgroup members and staffing costs for AOC are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Numerous fines and fees may be imposed by the courts. These include filing fees (and, when applicable, service fees) at the initiation of a case and fines/fees that may be imposed depending on the resolution of a particular case. The fines and fees collected are generally allocated to a variety of sources under statute, including (1) the State

general fund; (2) the general funds of the local jurisdictions; and (3) numerous State special funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2022
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