

State Expenditures

The bill potentially increases expenditures in the Judicial Department by a minimal amount, as discussed below.

Gifts, grants, and donations. To the extent that gifts, grants, and donations are received, any additional funds in the Restorative Justice Surcharge Fund could be used to support restorative justice programs operated by the judicial districts. Because the amount of any such gifts grants, and donations is unknown at this time, the amount of any potential increase in expenditures cannot be estimated. The fiscal note assumes that any funding received will be appropriated through the annual budget process.

Coordinating council participation. A judge and a representative from the Office of the State Public Defender's Office will be required to participate on the Restorative Justice Coordinating Council. This will increase workload for these staff, but it is assumed these duties can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Commission members serve without compensation and are not reimbursed for expenses.

Local Government Impact

To the extent that the bill increases participation by juveniles in the restorative justice pilot programs, district attorneys may have additional workload and costs. Any revenue received from gifts, grants, and donations under the bill could provide additional funding for district attorneys to operate restorative justice programs in their judicial districts. To the extent juveniles are referred to, and successfully complete, a restorative justice program prior to adjudication for petty and municipal offenses, fee and fine revenue to cities and workload in municipal courts may be reduced by a minimal amount.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial

District Attorneys

Treasurer