

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 625
Judiciary

(Delegate Clippinger)

Baltimore Police Department - Commission to Restore Trust in Policing -
Extension and Funding

This bill extends the termination date of the Commission to Restore Trust in Policing from January 15, 2020, to January 15, 2021, and extends the due date by which the commission must submit its final report to the Governor and the General Assembly from December 31, 2019, to December 31, 2020. In addition, the bill requests and encourages the Governor to appropriate sufficient funds for fiscal 2020 and 2021 to enable the commission to complete its work in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) can generally continue to staff the commission with existing resources; however, general fund expenditures increase for consultants necessary to support the continued work of the commission. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Baltimore City and the circuit court can continue to work with the commission using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 753 of 2018 established the Commission to Restore Trust in Policing to review, investigate, and make recommendations relating to the Baltimore Police Department.

The commission is authorized to:

- conduct hearings;
- administer oaths and affirmations;
- issue process to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence; and
- require a person to testify and produce evidence.

The commission is staffed by DLS. Members of the commission serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

The commission submitted its [preliminary report](#) on December 28, 2018, and is required to submit its final report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2019. The commission is set to terminate on January 15, 2020.

State Expenditures: Any continued expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for DLS are assumed to be minimal and generally absorbable within existing budgeted resources. However, specialized staff has been determined to be necessary to do some of the functions required by Chapter 753 that are generally outside the scope of typical staffing duties for DLS. Among other specified duties, Chapter 753 requires the commission to utilize various methods of investigation and information gathering, including reviewing of transcripts or other sworn testimony and interviewing of witnesses through subpoena or other means. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase for consultants necessary to support the continued work of the commission. Any such increase cannot be estimated at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 847 (Senator Ferguson, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

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

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Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510