

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1336
Appropriations

(Delegate Wilson, *et al.*)

State Personnel - Innovative Idea Awards Program - Additional Cash Awards

This bill specifies that the cash award issued by the Governor's Award Panel for an innovative idea with a reasonably ascertainable monetary savings or gain must be equal to 10% of the State's savings or gain.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Assuming the Governor's Award Panel remains inactive, the bill does not substantively change State activities, operations, or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: An innovative idea award may be given for an idea that increases revenue, saves money, improves the quality of services, or otherwise significantly benefits the State. Each head of a principal unit in the Executive Branch of State government is required to establish a labor-management review committee to evaluate and recommend awards for innovative ideas by employees of that unit.

The labor-management review committee must decide whether to issue an innovative idea award. An award may be up to \$1,000 for an idea with a reasonably attainable monetary savings or gain for the State, or up to \$300 for ideas deemed to have a lesser impact.

The labor-management review committee submits ideas for which an award has been made to the Governor's Award Panel for further award consideration. The Governor's Award Panel may make recommendations for additional innovative idea awards. An award from the Governor's panel may be up to \$20,000, and/or up to 20 days of paid administrative leave. According to the Governor's Office, the Governor's Award Panel has been inactive since 1998; thus, the panel has issued no awards for innovative ideas in at least 14 years.

In fiscal 2011, individual agencies issued 28 awards for innovative ideas totaling \$5,240.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill does not impact State finances or operations assuming that the Governor's Award Panel remains inactive. However, if the panel were to reconvene and begin issuing awards, it is unlikely that the amount included in awards would be significantly affected due to the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1128 of 2010, a similar bill, received a hearing from the House Appropriations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Governor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2012
mc/ljm

Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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