

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 724 (Senator Baker)  
Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

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**Estates and Trusts - First Notices - First-Class Mail**

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This enrolled bill allows required first notices pertaining to estates of decedents to be deposited as first-class mail rather than restricted delivery mail. At the expense of the estate, orphans' courts may require or a personal representative may elect to have the first notice given by restricted delivery mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the last known address, with delivery restricted to the addressee. A similar change from ordinary to first-class mail is made for subsequent notices.

The bill deletes all current provisions contrary to this change, and is effective July 1, 1996.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would decrease by approximately \$225,000 annually as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** Based on a limited survey of Registers of Wills, mailing costs for first notices could decrease by at least \$225,000 annually. This estimate is based on a savings of about \$5 on each such mailing, which would be derived by depositing the notices as first-class mail rather than restricted delivery (\$.32 vs. \$5.27). The Registers of Wills advise that there would be very few mailings where an orphans' court would require, or a personal representative would elect, a mailing by restricted delivery.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Registers of Wills,  
Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 1996  
ncs Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 1996

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