

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 559 (Delegate Workman)
Judiciary

Child Support - Recommendations by a Master - Escrow Accounts

This bill provides that within 30 days of a party filing exceptions in a modification of a child support award case, the court must direct entry of a final order of a master's recommendation for an award increase, or make a temporary order directing the amount in dispute to be paid into an escrow account until the court directs a final order.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: If a temporary order requires the increased child support award to be placed in an escrow account, general fund expenditures could increase. Clerks of the court would be required to open escrow accounts for the child support awards and establish complete accounting systems to monitor the payment and return of funds. Information is not available regarding how many cases this bill will affect. There may also be a need for additional personnel in certain jurisdictions. Depending upon the size of the court and its caseload, the effect on expenditures could be substantial.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Human Resources, Clerks of Court of Baltimore and Queen Anne's counties

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 1996

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