

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 822 (Delegate Grosfeld, *et al.*)
Judiciary

Family Law - Child Support Guidelines

This bill revises the schedule of basic child support obligations used to calculate the amount of a child support award under the child support guidelines.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Federal and Maryland law require a review of the State's child support guidelines to ensure that the application of the guidelines results in the determination of appropriate child support award amounts. According to the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA), the initial child support guidelines were passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1989, and have not been updated since that time. In 1999 CSEA formed a workgroup to study the guidelines, and this proposal is a result of the findings of that workgroup. CSEA advises that this bill reduces the child support guideline payment amounts at the lower income levels, and increases the payment amounts at the higher income levels.

State Fiscal Effect: CSEA has the original guideline table in its child support enforcement system, and estimates that minimal costs would be associated with changing to the new schedule.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources (Child Support Enforcement Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 14, 2001
ef/jr

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