

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 581

(Chair, Appropriations Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Human Resources)

Appropriations

Judicial Proceedings

Family Law - Displaced Homemakers Program - Evaluation and Report

This departmental bill makes it discretionary, rather than mandatory, for the Secretary of Human Resources to evaluate the multipurpose service center for displaced homemakers and to report annually to the General Assembly on the center and its programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Human Resources (DHR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: A “displaced homemaker” is an individual who (1) is at least 35 years old; (2) has worked for the family in the family home; (3) is not gainfully employed; and (4) has had, or would have, difficulty in securing employment. In addition, the individual must have either (1) experienced a loss of income due to separation, divorce, or the death or disability of the income-providing family member; or (2) been dependent on governmental assistance as the parent of a dependent child who is no longer eligible for that assistance. DHR is required to establish a center for displaced homemakers which provides counseling, training, skills, services, and education.

The Secretary of Human Resources is required to evaluate periodically the effectiveness of the job training, employment placement, and services program for displaced homemakers. DHR's annual report to the General Assembly must include a report on the center and its programs, which includes specified information.

Background: DHR advises it has sponsored the displaced homemakers program for approximately 30 years. Although the program is mandated by statute, funding for the program is not. During fiscal 2009, the Board of Public Works reduced the program's fiscal 2009 funding by 50% and terminated the program's fiscal 2010 funding. The program was not funded in fiscal 2011, and funding is not included in the Governor's proposed fiscal 2012 budget. DHR further advises that program funding is not planned for the future due to budgetary constraints. DHR complied with the statutory reporting requirement and submitted reports on the displaced homemakers program in 2010 and 2011, even though the program was not funded.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2011
mc/hlb

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Family Law – Displaced Homemakers Program – Evaluation and Report

BILL NUMBER: HB 581

PREPARED BY: Department of Human Resources

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.