

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 103

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

Appropriations

Finance

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**Department of Human Resources and Child Support Enforcement  
Administration - Renaming**

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This departmental bill renames the Department of Human Resources (DHR) as the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) and renames the Secretary of Human Resources as the Secretary of Human Services. The bill also renames the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) as the Child Support Administration (CSA).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any minimal costs to DHR associated with the bill's changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** DHS is the successor of DHR and CSA is the successor of CSEA; previous names and titles have the same meaning as the new names and titles in all laws, executive orders, rules, regulations, policies, or documents created by a State official, employee, or unit.

The bill does not affect (1) the terms of office of members of any commission, office, department, agency, or other unit; (2) the status of any transaction or employment entered into or existing before the bill's effective date; (3) any right, duty, or interest flowing from a statute amended by the bill; or (4) the continuity of any commission, office, department, agency, or other unit and related matters.

Letterhead, business cards, and other documents bearing the new name may not be used until the materials bearing the previous name have been used. The publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland is required to change cross references and terminology throughout the code and to describe each change in an editor's note.

**Current Law/Background:** DHR is the State's primary social services provider. Through its local departments of social services, its work includes child welfare, adult protective services, child support, and administering numerous forms of public benefits, such as temporary cash assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance (*i.e.*, food stamps). DHR has undergone several name changes since its inception in 1900; the name "Department of Human Resources" was assigned to the agency in 1975. However, the name no longer communicates the work of the department. DHR advises that it is often confused with the Department of Budget and Management as the agency with oversight over personnel matters since the term "human resources" is generally associated with employment, personnel, and placement services. With the exception of Maryland, West Virginia, and Alabama, all other states have changed the name of their respective social services agency to more accurately reflect the agency's mission. DHR already includes in its letterhead, e-signature line, and other public documents the tagline "Maryland's Human Services Agency" in an attempt to convey the work that it does.

DHR further advises that dropping the term "enforcement" from the name of CSEA, conveys to the public that DHR provides supportive services to both child support obligors and custodial parents who rely on DHR to collect more than \$600 million annually in support obligations. For example, DHR works with community partners to secure employment for obligors, which helps individuals in meeting their child support obligations.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2017  
fn/jc Third Reader - March 15, 2017

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Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

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

**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL:** Department of Human Resources and Child Support Enforcement  
Administration - Renaming

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 103

**PREPARED BY:** Department of Human Resources  
(Dept./Agency)

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