

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1401 (Delegate Genn, et al.)
Judiciary

Juvenile Causes - Preliminary Procedures and Dispositions

This bill requires a juvenile intake officer to make a decision on whether to file a petition in juvenile court or to propose an informal adjustment within 10 days of receiving a complaint. The bill also requires a State's Attorney to consider restitution when deciding whether to pursue a juvenile case, and a juvenile court may order the child or the child's parents or guardians to pay restitution. In addition, a juvenile court making a disposition is limited to probation, supervision, placement in a Juvenile Justice facility, or restitution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Significant but indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Under current law, an intake officer is required to make a decision on whether to file a petition or propose informal adjustment within 25 days of a complaint. In many cases, the Department of Juvenile Justice does not meet this deadline.

State Expenditures: *Neither the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) nor the Judiciary responded to requests for information regarding the fiscal effect of this bill.*

As DJJ is not meeting the current statutory requirement to decide whether to file a petition in many cases, it is unlikely that it could meet a shorter deadline with existing resources. Absent information about the number of cases that are not currently decided within 25 days and other information from DJJ, Fiscal Services is unable to estimate the number of positions or other resources required to implement this bill.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 1996

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