

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 315 (Delegate Hixson)
Judiciary

Family Law - Absolute Divorce - Time Periods

This bill reduces the time period for a decree of absolute divorce on the grounds of desertion or voluntary separation from 12 to 6 months.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$42,100 in FY 1997 only. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None. Local revenues from applicable filing fees would not be affected in the aggregate since the bill is not expected to generate any increase in actual divorce filings on these grounds.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: This bill would result in a temporary increase in divorce filings for the six-month period immediately following enactment (October 1, 1996 to April 1, 1997). It is not anticipated that the bill will actually induce any more filings on the grounds of desertion or voluntary separation.

General fund expenditures would increase by \$42,088, in fiscal 1997 only due to the hiring of one Filing Clerk in each of the five largest circuit courts to assist the clerks of those courts with this one-time escalation in filings. Since the State pays for the operations of the clerks of the circuit courts, the additional expenditures must be borne by the State.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1996

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