

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 396 (Delegate Dembrow, et al.)
Judiciary

Family Law - Child Custody - Joint Legal Responsibility

This bill provides that in an initial custody proceeding involving the parents of a minor child, there is a rebuttable presumption that an award of “joint legal responsibility” to both parents is in the best interests of the child. The bill also provides the circumstances under which such an award must include “joint physical custody”.

The factors that a court must consider in making an award of sole legal custody are delineated. These provisions are applied to custody cases filed on or after October 1, 1996 for which no prior custody order has been issued.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The requirements of this bill can be accommodated with the existing budgeted resources of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 1996
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