

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1027 (Delegate Rawlings, et al.)  
Appropriations Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore City - “Child First” - Special Authority**

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This amended bill authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to establish by ordinance an authority known as “Child First” that uses existing facilities for the purpose of providing recreational, cultural, and other enrichment programs for children. The Mayor and City Council are authorized to provide funding for the authority and any city government services that are deemed appropriate to assist the authority in its operations.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate impact on Baltimore City finances.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** This bill authorizes the establishment of a “Child First” authority in Baltimore City. The authority has the following responsibilities and powers:

- must have a management board and executive director;
- may employ staff or contract for any services;
- may establish fees necessary to operate the authority;
- may accept public or private grants and other revenues;
- may sue or be sued;
- may acquire property and incur limited obligation debt; and
- may adopt bylaws and regulations concerning the operation of the authority.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City advises that the authority’s costs would most likely be funded through various city agencies with current available funds. However, if the city has to hire

additional staff for the “Child First” authority, Baltimore City expenditures could increase by \$211,500 in fiscal 1997, which is based on current funding for the Mayor’s Commission for Women. This estimate includes salaries of \$129,889, fringe benefits of \$41,500, and operating expenses of \$40,000. New positions include the following:

Executive Director	\$ 44,900
Assistant Director	39,300
Public Information Officer	23,659
Office Secretary	<u>22,030</u>
<b>Total Staffing Costs</b>	<b>\$ 129,889</b>

**Additional Comments:** In fiscal 1996, Baltimore City appropriated approximately \$711.5 million for recreational, cultural, and education related programs that could be used to fund programs operated by the “Child First” authority. Funding for these various programs is illustrated below:

Recreation and Parks	\$ 36.1 million
Art and Culture	5.2 million
Enoch Pratt Free Library	20.8 million
Baltimore City Public Schools	<u>649.4 million</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$711.5 million</b>

**Information Source(s):** Department of Fiscal Services, Baltimore City

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 1996  
 ncs Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 1996

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