

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1097 (Delegate Elliott)  
Judiciary

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**Child Protection - Reasonable Punishment by Parent**

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This bill adds to the definition of “abuse” as it relates to child abuse and neglect. Reasonable punishment, including corporal punishment administered by a parent or stepparent, is not considered abuse as long as it does not physically or mentally injure the child under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law and is not expected to increase or decrease child abuse investigations or hearings.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 1996

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