

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1409 (Delegate Montague)  
Judiciary

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**Juvenile Causes - Child in Need of Assistance - Proceedings**

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This bill repeals current law pertaining to Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) proceedings and replaces it with new procedures. The bill expands the venue where CINA proceedings can be heard and extends the number of days that a child can remain in shelter care. The bill also modifies current law governing adjudication and disposition hearings. The bill provides legal counsel to every parent and child throughout the duration of the CINA proceeding.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate effect on general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** This bill revises current procedures pertaining to CINA proceedings. State expenditures could be affected depending upon whether the new provisions streamline the current adjudication and disposition process and whether children are removed from foster care sooner. In addition, the cost for legal representation could increase since the courts are required to provide legal representation to every parent and child throughout the duration of the CINA proceeding. Under current law, a parent's right to counsel is limited to proceedings in which the custody of the child is contested or requested.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 1996

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