

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 510 (Senator Baker, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

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**Estates - Personal Representatives - Election for Modified Administration**

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This amended bill establishes a simplified procedure for the administration of an estate. The bill authorizes the personal representative of an estate to file for modified administration provided that certain conditions exist, such as the estate must be solvent and the heirs are limited to the decedent's personal representative, surviving spouse, and children. Under a modified administration, a personal representative needs only to file (1) a statement that the estate qualifies for modified administration; (2) a brief description of the property of the estate; and (3) a verified final report including specified information. The final report must be filed within ten months from the date of appointment of the personal representative. Final distribution of the estate must occur within 12 months from the date of appointment. A formal inventory and accounting of assets is not required under modified administration, except under specified circumstances. The bill provides that the modified administration may be revoked by the register of wills at any time if there is a written objection by an interested person. The bill further provides that if the modified administration is revoked, the personal representative must proceed under normal administrative probate.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal positive impact on small estate planning businesses to the extent that the bill's provisions reduce administrative costs and promote efficiency.

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**Information Source(s):** Comptroller of the Treasury (Revenue Administration Division), Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Register of Wills, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 1997

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Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 1997

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