

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 51 (Senator Craig)
Judicial Proceedings

Courts and Judicial Proceedings - Evidence - Psychotherapist - Patient Privilege

This bill provides that there is no confidential communications privilege between a patient and a psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist, during any: (1) administrative or judicial nondelinquent juvenile proceeding; (2) guardianship and adoption proceeding initiated by a child placement agency; (3) guardianship and protective services proceeding concerning disabled persons; or (4) any criminal or delinquency proceeding in which there is a charge of child abuse or neglect, or which arises out of an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any increase in the Judiciary's workload resulting from lengthier proceedings could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal effect on a psychiatrist or licensed psychologist to the extent that they would be called into court more often to attend the proceedings specified in the bill.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 10, 1997

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