

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 833 (Delegate Dembrow, *et al.*)
Judiciary

Family Law - Child Custody - Joint Legal Custody

This bill provides that in an initial child custody proceeding there is a rebuttable presumption that “joint legal custody” is in the best interests of a child. This presumption may be rebutted by specified evidence. The bill requires the court to make residential arrangements for a child if the court awards joint legal custody. If the court does not award joint legal custody, the court must award sole custody to one of the parents in accordance with the best interests of the child, and make residential arrangements for the child.

The bill is applied to actions filed on or after October 1, 1997 for cases in which no prior custody order has been issued.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The changes would not directly affect the Judiciary’s finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1997
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