

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 694 (Delegate Cryor, *et al.*)
Judiciary

Adoption and Guardianship Proceedings - Appointment of Counsel

This bill requires a court to appoint separate counsel to represent an individual who is the subject of a termination of parental rights proceeding in which the State is petitioning for guardianship until a final judgment of adoption is entered. Current law requires an appointment of counsel only if the termination of parental rights is involuntary.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The departments of social services already assume responsibility for legal representation during applicable proceedings. Therefore, this bill codifies existing practice.

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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