

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 15 (Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Judiciary Committee, *et al.*)
(Family Violence Council)

Judiciary

Family Law - Protective Orders

This bill provides that protective orders served on a respondent must be served in open court or by first class mail. This is the same manner in which they are presently required to be served on petitioners, persons eligible for relief, law enforcement agencies, and any other person deemed appropriate by the court. Current law requires respondents to be served in a specified manner in open court or by a law enforcement officer, constable, or sheriff.

The bill provides that a copy of a protective order properly served on a respondent constitutes actual notice to the respondent of the contents of the order, and that service is complete upon mailing. In addition, the bill defines “residence” to include curtilage, and expands, from 200 days to 18 months (approximately 540 days), the maximum time period for a protective order to remain effective.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any additional costs for postage can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: Minimal. Any additional costs for postage can be handled by the existing budgeted resources of the circuit courts. Expanding the maximum effective period for protective orders would only have a minimal effect on the operations of local law enforcement, and would not measurably affect local finance.

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

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

Human Resources, Baltimore City, Frederick County, Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

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