

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 158 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Referred to Judiciary

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Family Law - Protective Orders

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This enrolled bill provides that protective orders served on a respondent must be served in open court or by first class mail to the person's last known address. Current law requires service 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 constitutes actual notice, and that service is complete upon mailing. The bill defines "residence", and expands, from 200 days to 12 months (approximately 540 days), the maximum time period for a protective order to remain effective. A subsequent circuit court order must supersede the provisions of the protective order.

In addition, the court that issued a protective order is allowed, with good cause, to extend the term of the protective order for six months after giving notice and a hearing.

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Fiscal Summary

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

**Local Effect:** Minimal. Any additional costs for postage or additional hearings 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 finances.

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

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**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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 1997  
brd Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 1997  
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