

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 679 (Delegates Taylor and Chairman, Judiciary Committee, *et al.*)
(Family Violence Council)

Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Family Law - Protective Orders

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.

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.

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 - February 4, 1997
brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 20, 1997
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