

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 929 (Montgomery County Delegation)

Judiciary

Montgomery County - District Court - Juvenile Court Jurisdiction
MC 725-97

This bill allows the District Court in Montgomery County, sitting as the juvenile court, to have exclusive original jurisdiction over termination of parental rights proceedings and related adoption proceedings involving children in need of assistance. The bill also increases the jurisdiction of the equity court in Montgomery County regarding adoption of certain children, and repeals a provision that terminated the jurisdiction of the county juvenile court under certain circumstances.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Based on the fact that approximately 47 termination of parental rights cases were filed in the circuit court for Montgomery County in FY 1996, with only six cases going to trial, it is assumed that the increased workload could be absorbed within the District Court's existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. In FY 1996, approximately 47 termination of parental rights cases were filed in the circuit court for Montgomery County. Approximately six cases go to trial per year. The remainder are usually settled out of court. Although the bill may decrease the number of cases heard by the circuit court, it is not expected to measurably affect local expenditures.

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

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 1997

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