

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 42 (Delegate Grosfeld. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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**Family Law - Award of Expenses**

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This bill adds absolute divorce, limited divorce, and property disposition in annulment or divorce to the types of proceedings in which a court may award to either party an amount for the “reasonable and necessary expense” of prosecuting or defending the proceeding. The bill specifies what a court must consider before ordering payment and allows a court to order counsel fees to be paid directly to the lawyer.

The bill applies to cases filed on or after the October 1, 1998 effective date.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 1998

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