

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 856 (Delegate Krvsiak. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Child Abuse - Out of Court Statements

This bill provides that an out of court statement made by a child victim to an adult who is not the parent or legal guardian of the child may be admissible in a proceeding for certain child abuse offenses, if the court finds, in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury, that the time, content, and circumstance of the statement provide sufficient indicia of reliability. The bill repeals the provision that an out of court statement made by a child victim to a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, licensed social worker, or teacher may be admissible if the statement was made to and is offered by the designated professional acting in the course of the individual's profession when the statement was made, and if the statement possesses particularized guarantees of trustworthiness.

The bill also includes related technical changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This evidentiary change would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1998

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Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710