

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 17 (Delegate Arnick)

Judiciary

Family Law - Grounds for Absolute Divorce - Abuse

This bill adds “abuse” to the grounds for which a court may decree an absolute divorce. The bill defines “abuse” as a finding of guilt by a court for an assault or sexual offense committed by an individual against the individual’s spouse. Under current law, an absolute divorce may be granted on the grounds of: (1) adultery; (2) desertion; (3) voluntary separation; (4) conviction of a felony or misdemeanor; (5) a two-year separation; or (6) insanity.

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any effect on the Judiciary’s caseload is expected to be negligible.

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 - January 15, 1998

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