

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 688 (Senator Forehand. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Child Abuse - Out of Court Statements - Nurses

This bill provides that an out of court statement made by a child victim to a nurse or a principal, vice principal, or school counselor at a public or private preschool, elementary school, or secondary school may be admissible in a proceeding for certain child abuse offenses, if the statement was made to and is offered by the individual lawfully acting in the course of the individual's profession, when the statement was made. Under current law, an out of court statement made by a child victim to a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, licensed social worker, or teacher may be admissible under similar circumstances.

The bill also repeals the requirement that the professional to whom the out of court statement was made possess an occupational license.

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 Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 1998
lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 1998
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