

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 279 (Delegates Vallario and Turner)

Judiciary

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**District Court - Criminal Jurisdiction - Child Abduction and Custody Interference**

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This bill grants jurisdiction to the District Court, concurrent with that of the circuit courts, over criminal cases in which a relative is charged with abducting a child to a place outside of the State; detaining, harboring, or hiding a child outside of the State; or acting as an accessory to any such act (a felony). Under current law, the circuit courts have exclusive jurisdiction over these cases.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues. Minimal effect on State expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal decrease in revenues. Minimal effect on local expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** The number of cases that will shift from circuit courts to the District Court as a result of this bill cannot be reliably estimated at this time. General fund revenues could increase to the extent that more fine revenues are received by the District Court as a result of the jurisdictional change. However, because this crime is not often prosecuted, and because some of these cases would continue to be brought in circuit court, a significant effect on State revenues is not expected.

**State Expenditures:** It is expected that any increased workload for the District Court resulting from this bill could be absorbed with existing resources.

**Local Revenues:** Revenues could decrease to the extent that less fine revenues are received by the circuit courts as a result of the jurisdictional change. However, because this crime is not often prosecuted, and because some of these cases would continue to be brought in circuit court, a significant effect on revenues is not expected.

**Local Expenditures:** Although the bill may decrease the number of cases heard by the circuit courts, it is not expected to measurably affect local expenditures.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 1998

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