

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 72 (Delegate Grosfeld. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Family Law - Award of Expenses

This bill provides that in proceedings for absolute divorce, limited divorce, and property disposition in annulment or divorce, a court may award to either party an amount for the “reasonable and necessary expense” of prosecuting or defending the proceeding. The bill specifies factors a court must consider before ordering payment and requires that payment be ordered when there is no substantial justification for a party to prosecute or defend the proceeding.

This bill applies to cases filed on or after the October 1, 1999 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill 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 - January 25, 1999
dmm/jr

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