

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 75 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)  
(Departmental - Juvenile Justice)

Judicial Proceedings

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Juvenile Justice - State Custody - Child Support and Restitution

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This departmental bill permits a juvenile court to order either or both parents of a child to pay for the support of the child if the child has been committed, placed in shelter care, or detained. Orders of restitution are to take priority over orders for payment of child support, however. Under current law a juvenile court may only order parents to pay costs of commitment.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and/or minimal decrease in general fund expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** DJJ advises that it plans to use existing resources to implement a small scale effort to collect support from parents of youth in shelter care and detention. DJJ also intends to use the bill's authority to attempt to reduce the number of youth in detention. Some children who are placed in detention would be released to the custody of their parents, if the parents would agree to receive them. It is hoped that this legislation will cause more parents

to accept custody of their children pending adjudication of juvenile matters, rather than pay support to the State.

Therefore, this bill could result in an increase in revenues and/or a decrease in detention care expenditures for DJJ. The precise amounts of any such increase or decrease cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but are expected to be minimal. DJJ advises that it intends to target 12 children per month pursuant to the bill.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 21, 1999

dmm\jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - February 5, 1999

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