

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 125 (Senator Stone)
(Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws)
Judicial Proceedings

Victims' Rights - Juvenile Hearings and Dispositions

This bill requires victims, as redefined, of juvenile offenders to be notified of hearings to waive juvenile jurisdiction, and authorizes the victim to submit a victim impact statement to the court at the waiver hearing. The bill authorizes the court to consider the victim impact statement in determining whether to waive its jurisdiction.

State's Attorneys must notify a victim who has filed a notification request form of the victim's right to submit a victim impact statement at a waiver hearing. The bill provides that if a court closes a juvenile hearing in which a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, the victim must still be admitted.

The bill also requires the court to consider any oral or written statements of a victim before determining disposition on a petition. The bill eliminates existing priorities in determining a disposition for a child and requires priorities "consistent with" specified statutory purposes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any additional responsibilities for the Judiciary under the provisions of this bill can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that notification requirements applicable to State's Attorneys can be accommodated with existing budgeted resources since similar prior victim notification requirements already exist.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Criminal Injuries Compensation Board), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:	First Reader - February 4, 1999
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