

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1076 (Delegates Malone and Montague)

Judiciary

Family Law - Covenant Marriage

This bill authorizes a man and a woman to enter into a covenant marriage, in which the parties agree to:

- participate in premarital counseling;
- make all reasonable efforts to preserve the marriage before seeking a divorce, including marital counseling; and
- waive the right to a no-fault divorce.

Parties wishing to enter into a covenant marriage must declare their intent to do so on the marriage license application and submit a declaration of intent containing specified elements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is not expected to have a material effect on governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Additional Comments: To the extent that the bill results in fewer divorces in future years, court workloads and operating expenses could be reduced. Any such reduction cannot be determined at this time.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1999
ncs/jr

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