

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 406 (Senators Forehand and Ruben)

Judicial Proceedings

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Family Law - Award of Expenses

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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.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 1999

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