

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 888 (Delegate Montague, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Family Law - Child Custody - Best Interest of the Child

This bill authorizes a court to award certain child custody arrangements, requires a court to consider the best interest of the child in making a custody or visitation determination, and requires a court to examine specified factors when considering the best interest of the child. A court must state on the record the basis for a child custody or visitation award.

The bill applies only to cases filed on or after the bill's October 1, 1999 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Potential efficiency savings for circuit courts.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: To the extent that the bill reduces prolonged litigation in child custody matters, circuit courts could experience efficiency savings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1999

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