

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1128 (Delegates Amedori and Burns)

Judiciary

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Family Law - Foreign Marriages - Invalidity

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This bill provides that a marriage between two individuals of the same sex that is validly entered into in another state or in a foreign country is not valid in Maryland. Any benefits or contractual rights or obligations created by a marriage between two individuals of the same sex are void.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal effect on State finances.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal effect on local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** State finances could be affected to the extent that people would not be able to claim married status as a result of this bill. For example, the State as creditor could benefit if a debtor was not able to hold property as tenants by the entireties. In addition, the State as employer could benefit if it is not required to subsidize the health insurance benefits of employees' partners because they are not considered to be married. (The State does not currently provide health insurance benefits to domestic partners.) The number of people who live in, are employed by, or have dealings with the State who are involved in same sex marriages is unknown, but is assumed to be minimal. As such, any effect that this bill would have on State finances is expected to be minimal.

**Local Effect:** A local government could be affected by this bill in a similar manner as the State to the extent that any members of same sex marriages are debtors of or employed by the

governmental unit.

**Small Business Effect:** A small business could be affected by this bill in a similar manner as the State to the extent that any members of same sex marriages are debtors of or employed by the business.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 1999

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