

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 80 (Delegate Sophocleus)
Environmental Matters

Breast Feeding - Individual Other Than a Parent

This bill prohibits an individual from breast feeding a minor who is not the child of the individual without the consent of a “parent” of the minor. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of \$100 for a first offense and \$250 for each subsequent offense. Additionally, a court is authorized to order restitution for any medical expenses resulting from a violation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s monetary penalty provisions are assumed to be negligible.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: This specific prohibition does not currently exist in law or regulation.

Background: The lack of a specific prohibition regarding breast feeding someone else’s child has created concern in Maryland, mainly because of possible health risks to the child. Recently, a case was reported in Anne Arundel County where a woman picked up and began to breast-feed a fussy child in a daycare center, although she was a stranger to the baby and the baby’s family.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 31 (Senators DeGrange and Hollinger) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 2000

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