

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 772 (Delegate O'Donnell. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program in the Circuit Court for Calvert County. The purpose of the program is to authorize the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Calvert County to enter into contracts with eligible providers to provide “exchange monitoring” and supervised visitation services to parents and children in Calvert County in order to promote and encourage healthy parent and child relationships between noncustodial or joint custodial parents and their children, while ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of children.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by as much as \$75,000 in FY 2001, which reflects the bill’s October 1, 2000 effective date, if full funding for the Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program is provided by the State. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization and the bill’s September 30, 2003 sunset.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$75,000	\$80,100	\$80,100	\$20,000	\$0
Net Effect	(\$75,000)	(\$80,100)	(\$80,100)	(\$20,000)	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program Fund revenues and expenditures could increase by as much as \$75,000 in FY 2001, by \$80,100 in FY 2002 and FY 2003, and by \$20,000 in FY 2004.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Exchange monitoring is defined as a third person supervision of the movement of a child from the custodial to the noncustodial parent or between joint custodial parents at the start of a visit and at the end of a visit as required under a court order or with the mutual consent of the child's parents for the purposes of facilitating a visitation. The administrative judge must develop a fee schedule for exchange monitoring services that is applicable only to parents who voluntarily participate in the program and incorporates a sliding scale of fees based on each parent's ability to pay.

The bill also creates the Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program Fund, a special, nonlapsing fund consisting of moneys appropriated in the State budget to the fund, investment earnings, revenue generated by fees for exchange monitoring services, and any other moneys from any governmental or private source.

The Governor may provide for a deficiency appropriation to the fund in the State budget for fiscal 2000, and may appropriate moneys to the fund in the State budget for fiscal 2001 and each year thereafter.

The administrative judge must report to the General Assembly on specified matters relating to the program by October 1, 2001 and annually thereafter.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2003.

Current Law: None applicable.

Local Fiscal Effect: Calvert County estimates one-time start-up costs for the program created by the bill at \$15,000, which includes office furniture and supplies. Ongoing costs are estimated at \$80,050 on an annual basis, which includes salary expense for a case manager, visitation supervisors, and security personnel; lease expense; and costs for miscellaneous supplies. (Ongoing costs would be \$60,038 in fiscal 2001 due to the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date, and \$20,013 in fiscal 2004 due to the bill's September 30, 2003 sunset.) The Governor's proposed fiscal 2001 budget does not include funding to implement this bill. Calvert County did not provide information regarding expected fee levels or the amount of expected revenues from fees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2000
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