

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1422 (Delegates Montague and Doorv)

Judiciary

Family Law - Petition for Guardianship - Clarifying the Rights of a Child

This emergency bill provides that, with certain exceptions, a court may grant a decree awarding guardianship of a child only with the consent of the child, if the child is at least ten years old on the date the petition for guardianship is filed and specified evidence is presented indicating that the child has a significant relationship with the natural parent. The bill also contains provisions relating to notice and objection rights of children at least ten years old in guardianship proceedings.

The bill may not be applied to any petition for guardianship filed before the bill's effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill would not significantly impact governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With certain exceptions, the court may grant a decree awarding guardianship of a child only after any investigation and hearing the court considers necessary, and with the consent of each living natural parent of the child.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2000
drg/jr

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