

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 43 (Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee)
(Departmental - Aging)

Judicial Proceedings

Disabled Persons - Guardian of the Person - Delegation of Authority

This departmental bill authorizes the Secretary of Aging to delegate public guardianship responsibilities of a disabled person to staff members registered with the court. The bill allows the staff to act on behalf of the Secretary of Aging for a small number of wards in an ongoing caseload which is technically the legal responsibility of the Secretary.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not substantively change State operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Aging has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The delegation of guardianship authority to staff is authorized for directors of area agencies on aging and directors of local departments of social services.

Background: Chapter 372 of 1993 gave the directors of area agencies on aging the authority to delegate guardianship responsibilities to staff. In 1997 (Chapter 9), similar authority was granted to directors of local departments of social services. This proposal similarly extends such delegation authority to the Secretary of Aging, allowing the Secretary to delegate responsibilities to professional staff who manage public wards on a day-to-day basis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Aging, Register of Wills, Department of Legislative Services

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