

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 596 (Harford County Delegation)

Judiciary

Family Law - Child Abduction - Restitution

This bill provides that a person convicted of child abduction by a relative must make restitution that includes repayment of costs incurred by the State in locating and returning a child as a result of the conduct of the person that gave rise to the conviction.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal revenue increase from restitution payments.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Persons convicted of child abduction by a relative are subject to fines and/or incarceration, but are not statutorily required to make restitution for costs incurred by the State in locating and returning the child who was abducted.

State Revenues: To the extent that defendants make restitution pursuant to the bill, the State would realize revenues. The Maryland Center for Missing Children advises that in 1998, 20 cases of child abduction by a parent or acquaintance were closed. Information regarding the costs spent by the State in locating and returning these children is not readily available. It is believed that some abducted children are located and returned by local law enforcement agencies. It is further believed that the costs incurred by law enforcement agencies in many of these situations would not be recoverable from abductors.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 426 (Senator Jacobs, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Center for Missing Children, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2000
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