

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 780

(Delegate Amedori)

Judiciary

Family Law - Award of Expenses

This bill authorizes a court to award costs and counsel fees in a proceeding involving child custody, support, or visitation at any point in the proceeding.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The awarding of costs and counsel fees prior to the conclusion of domestic proceedings would not materially impact governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A court may award to either party the costs and counsel fees that are just and proper under all the circumstances in any case in which a person:

- applies for a decree or modification of a decree concerning the custody, support, or visitation of a child of the parties; or
- files any form of proceeding to recover arrearages of child support, enforce a decree of child support, or enforce a decree of custody or visitation.

Before awarding costs and counsel fees, the court must consider specified factors.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 9, 2001
ncs/jr

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