

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 160 (Senator Harris)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Juvenile Law - Juvenile Court Records - Disclosure of Information to Victim

This bill provides that disclosure to a victim of the disposition and findings of a court case concerning a child is not prohibited.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in juvenile court records checks could be performed with existing District Court resources. Only in Montgomery County is the juvenile court a part of the District Court.

Local Effect: Any increase in juvenile court records checks could be processed with existing circuit court resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A court record pertaining to a juvenile is confidential and its contents may not be divulged, by subpoena or otherwise, except by order of the court on good cause shown.

Background: In general, juvenile records are confidential in all states. Many states, however, have made exceptions to this rule. In Virginia, upon request by victims, the court may order that victims be kept informed of delinquent charges, court findings, and case dispositions for cases that would be felonies if committed by adults. In both Virginia and Pennsylvania, juvenile court records are open to the public in cases in which juveniles 14 or older are adjudicated delinquent for specified serious offenses. In New

Jersey, victims have access to juvenile court information concerning juveniles' identities and the dispositions in cases against juveniles. The Rhode Island Family Court may divulge the names and addresses of juveniles accused of committing crimes solely for the purpose of allowing victims to bring civil actions against the juveniles or the juveniles' parents.

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 2, 2001
jm/jr Revised – Senate Third Reader – April 2, 2001

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