

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 151

(The Speaker) (Department of Legislative Services)

Appropriations

Office for Children, Youth, and Families - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

This bill extends the sunset date for the Office for Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2009. The bill also extends the deadline for an evaluation of the office under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund, federal fund, and special fund revenues and expenditures would be maintained for OCYF beyond FY 2005. The proposed FY 2003 State budget for OCYF includes \$6,960,635 in general, federal, special, and reimbursable fund expenditures. The budget also assumes \$429,175 in special fund revenues, \$175,030 in federal fund revenues, and \$945,419 in reimbursable fund revenues for OCYF. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Special Secretary of the Office for Children, Youth, and Families is required to oversee the general policy for children, youth, and family services in the State. The office's policy is to promote a stable, safe, and healthy environment for children and families, thereby increasing self-sufficiency and family preservation.

Background: OCYF began as the gubernatorial Maryland Commission for Children Youth and Families established in 1968. The commission was responsible for identifying issues affecting children and youth and focusing attention on new programs and/or approaches to address those issues. In 1978 the Office of Children and Youth was established to assist agencies, local governments, and other organizations to carry out their functions involving children and youth.

The office was subsequently reorganized and renamed as OCYF in 1990. The office is subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, also known as the “sunset law,” which provides a system of periodic legislative review of the regulatory, licensing, and other governmental activities of various units of State government. The bill arises out of the preliminary sunset evaluation of OCYF performed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). In its report, DLS recommended that the Legislative Policy Committee extend OCYF’s termination date by five years to July 1, 2009, and waive the office from a full evaluation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 131 (The President) (Department of Legislative Services) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Governor’s Office (Office for Children, Youth, and Families); *Preliminary Evaluation of the Office for Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Legislative Services, November 2001*; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2002
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