

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 640
Judiciary

(Delegate Dumais, *et al.*)

Family Law - Unattended Children

This bill alters a prohibition against allowing an unattended child to be locked or confined by repealing the “locked or confined” language. The bill provides that a person who is charged with the care of a child under the age of eight years may not leave the child in a dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle while the person charged is absent and the dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle is out of sight of the person charged unless that person provides another reliable person at least 13 years old to remain with the child.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill’s provisions can be enforced with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person who is charged with the care of a child under eight years may not allow the child to be locked or confined in a dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle while the person charged is absent and the dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle is out of sight of the person charged unless the person charged provides a reliable person at least 13 years old to remain with and protect the child. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction, is subject to a maximum fine of \$500 and/or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2004
ncs/jr

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