

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 504

(Senators Kittleman and Schrader) (By Request)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Family Law - Motions for Modification of a Child Support Award - Hearings  
and Decisions**

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This bill establishes time limits for court hearings on the modification of child support orders and the issuance of decisions. The bill requires the court to hold a hearing on a motion for modification of a child support order within 150 days after filing of the motion. The court must issue a decision on the motion for modification within 30 days after the hearing.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund expenditures to provide additional resources to expedite hearings when necessary.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in expenditures to provide additional resources to expedite hearings when necessary.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The court is authorized to modify a child support award after the filing of a motion for modification and the showing of a material change in circumstances. Specific time frames for the hearing of the motion or the rendering of a decision by the court are not imposed by State law.

The court is prohibited from retroactively modifying a child support award prior to the date of the filing of the motion for modification.

**Background:** The Administrative Office of the Courts does not maintain statistics on the average disposition time for modification of child support orders by the circuit courts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2006  
ncs/jr

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