

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1363

(Delegate Murphy, *et al.*)

Appropriations

Social Services Administration - Kinship Care Navigator

This bill establishes a Kinship Care Navigator Program in the Department of Human Resources to assist current and potential kinship parents in identifying government and community services for which they may qualify.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Given that several programs with similar purposes already exist within the department, it is expected that the requirements of the bill could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Social Services Administration within DHR is required to maintain a program for kinship care, which is continuous 24-hour care and supportive services provided for a minor child placed by a child placement agency in the home of a relative by blood or marriage. Goals of the kinship care program include providing, referring, and coordinating services needed to achieve and maintain family stability and unity. Overall, services provided to the 1,900 children in formal kinship care programs are intended to be family focused, flexible, provided in the home or community, and designed to build on family strengths.

Chapters 31 and 475 of 2006 established a Child Welfare Training Academy in DHR with several purposes, including providing training on best practices to kinship caregivers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2008
mcp/hlb

Analysis by: Suzanne O. Potts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510