

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 193 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee) (By Request – Departmental- Human Resources)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Appropriations

Family Law - Social Services Administration - Definition

This departmental bill expands the legal definition of the Social Services Administration to include any other unit of the Department of Human Resources with delegated responsibility for SSA programs or services.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill clarifies current law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DHR has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: SSA is the central coordinating agency of all social service activities in the State, including adoption, foster care, and services to families with children. The administration supervises public and private institutions with responsibility for the care of abandoned or neglected children, with the exception of institutions under the principal authority of other State agencies. The administration's duties include the licensing of child placement agencies, child care homes, child care institutions, and residential educational facilities.

Background: In 2006, the Secretary of Human Resources transferred the unit responsible for group home licensing and monitoring from SSA to the Office of the Secretary. The transfer was an effort to increase the unit's accountability by establishing the unit as functionally distinct from SSA program operations and administration. The bill clarifies that this and any other similar arrangements do not diminish the authority of those units to execute SSA programs and services.

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 1, 2008
ncs/hlb

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