

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1021
Judiciary

(Delegates Heller and Vallario)

Family Law - Prohibited Marriages - First Cousins

This bill prohibits the marriage of first cousins unless both individuals are over the age of 65 and one can show proof of infertility. The bill only applies prospectively to marriages after the bill's October 1, 2010 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Since it is assumed that this bill will apply in a limited number of cases, State finances are not affected.

Local Effect: Since it is assumed that this bill applies to a limited number of cases, local government finances are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Marriages between individuals with certain relationships as specified in statute are prohibited. A marriage performed in this State in violation of these provisions is void. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of \$500 or \$1,500, depending on the relationship between the individuals. State law does not prohibit the marriage of first cousins.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2010
ncs/kdm

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