

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 835  
Judiciary

(Delegate Bates)

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**Child and Spousal Support - Contempt Proceedings - Statute of Limitations**

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This bill expands the statute of limitations from 3 years to 12 years so that a person may bring an action to hold a person in contempt for defaulting on payment of periodic child or spousal support payments within 12 years of the date each installment of support became due and remained unpaid.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill's requirements can be met with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A contempt proceeding for failure to make periodic payments of child or spousal support must be brought within three years of the date each installment of support became due and remained unpaid.

**State and Local Expenditures:** While expansion of the statute of limitations may encourage additional people to bring contempt actions, it is anticipated that any additional cases can be handled within existing resources.

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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 22, 2011  
mlm/kdm

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