

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1315  
Judiciary

(Howard County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

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Howard County - Orphans' Court Sessions  
Ho. Co. 9-11

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This bill requires the Orphans' Court for Howard County to determine when to hold its sessions for the transaction of business.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies existing practice.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill codifies existing practice.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Unless a different time is specified in statute or prescribed by local law, the Orphans' Court must be held on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December, and more often if required.

**Background:** This bill allows the court the flexibility to set its own schedule as well as to close during inclement weather or in case of other emergencies and remain in compliance with State law.

An orphans' court hears all contested matters regarding a decedent's estate, including validity of wills and legal questions involving transfers of property. The court also

supervises estates that are probated judicially; approves accounts, awards of personal representatives' commissions, and attorney's fees in all estates; and has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in the guardianship of minors and their property.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 21, 2011  
mlm/kdm

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