

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 876

(Chair, Judiciary Committee)(By Request - Departmental  
- Human Resources)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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Family Law - Single Parent Services - Repeal

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This departmental bill repeals statutory provisions of law relating to the Department of Human Resources' (DHR) single parent services program.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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Analysis

**Current Law:** DHR is required to establish in each local department of social services a single parent services program to carry out specified statutory policies. These policies include (1) providing single young people who are at risk of parenthood with access to appropriate counseling and health services; and (2) providing single parents with access to a comprehensive range of services to enable them to make appropriate plans for the care of their children and themselves. Single parent services include counseling; referrals to health care providers; and assistance with decisions regarding living arrangements, adoption placements, and noncustodial parental involvement. Services provided under the program must be available to any single youth who is pregnant, at risk of parenthood, or parent to a child younger than age three.

**Background:** According to DHR, the single parent services program was eliminated as a result of federal budget cuts in 1983 and regulations regarding the program were repealed in 1999. However, statutory provisions regarding the program were never repealed.

DHR indicates that the existing statutorily prescribed program services have been incorporated into the scope of DHR's regulations for in-home family services; therefore, the services will continue to be available at local departments of social services. DHR further notes that – although statutory language specifies that program services must be provided to eligible, unmarried youths – all services are currently available at local departments without regard to marital status.

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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/hlb

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## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Family Law – Single Parent Services - Repeal

BILL NUMBER: HB 876

PREPARED BY: Department of Human Resources

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.