

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1425  
Judiciary

(Delegate Ciliberti, *et al.*)

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Family Law - Guardianship and Adoption - Age of Consent and Revocation of  
Consent

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This bill reduces, from 30 days to 20 days, the timeframe during which a person may revoke consent to a guardianship or an adoption. It also raises, from age 10 to age 14, the age at which a minor's consent is required for adoption and at which a minor may revoke consent.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is procedural/technical in nature and does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is procedural/technical in nature and does not directly affect local finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** Statutory provisions set forth a process by which a court may enter an order for a child's adoption or guardianship. The process may include guardianships and adoptions through a local department of social services or a private child placement agency, as well as independent adoptions (those handled by other than a child placement agency). Statutory language includes provisions regarding a person's right to revoke consent to guardianship or adoption, which is generally 30 days after the required consent is signed or the relevant petition is filed, as specified. The bill reduces the applicable time period to 20 days.

Statutory provisions also require in such cases for a child who is at least age 10 to consent to the adoption and authorize a child at least age 10 to revoke consent, as specified. The bill increases the applicable age to 14.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2018  
mm/kdm

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