

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 480 (Senator Hafer)

Judicial Proceedings

Foster Care - Child Support Obligations

This bill requires the Social Services Administration (SSA) to adopt regulations that (1) authorize background checks of child support arrearages on an applicant for foster home approval who is also a biological or adoptive parent; and (2) consider any child support arrearage in determining whether to approve or disapprove the application.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate special fund revenue increase for child support collections and potential minimal general and federal fund expenditure increase for out-of-home care.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: State special fund revenues could increase to the extent that the bill's provisions lead to increased child support collections. Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients must assign their support rights to the State and federal government as partial reimbursement for TCA payments made on behalf of the children of the obligor; as a result, TCA child support collections are distributed 50% to the State and 50% to the federal government. It is not possible to reliably estimate the amount of increased State collections, however, since that amount depends on the number of TCA child support cases affected by the bill's provisions.

State Expenditures: There are approximately 3,700 foster care homes in Maryland. The bill could result in fewer foster home placements if an application is disapproved due to a child support arrearage. In this event, expenditures for other types of placements could increase if replacement foster homes are not available. Any such impact is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 1999
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 1999
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 1999

Analysis by: Sue Friedlander

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510