

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1245
Judiciary

(Delegate Rosenberg)

Department of Human Services - Child Support Services - Study and Report

This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR); specified entities; and other local providers and policy organizations to (1) review State child support laws and policies related to noncustodial parents; (2) study child support best practices in other states for noncustodial parents; and (3) recommend statutory and policy changes to encourage family engagement, assist low-income parents in meeting child support obligations, and promote economic self-sufficiency for noncustodial parents. By December 1, 2019, DHS must report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is anticipated that DLLR and DHS can meet the bill's requirements using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Child Support Administration (CSA) within DHS oversees child support services provided by the local departments of social services and other offices, including the establishment of paternity and/or child support orders and the collection and distribution of child support payments.

Numerous programs and statutory provisions address child support and noncustodial parents. For example, CSA is responsible for a statewide payment incentive program (PIP) to encourage payments of child support in cases in which Temporary Cash Assistance recipients have assigned their support rights to the State and federal government as partial reimbursement for payments made on behalf of the children of the obligor. Pursuant to the program, CSA enters into agreements with child support obligors in exchange for reductions in the amount of arrearages. In determining whether to authorize participation in PIP, CSA must consider whether (1) the obligor has a current ability to pay; (2) the reduction of arrearages will encourage the obligor's economic stability; and (3) the agreement serves the best interests of the children whom the obligor is required to support. Statutory provisions also address methods by which an individual with child support arrears may face suspension of a professional, recreational, or driver's license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/jc

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