

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1342
Judiciary

(Delegate Arikan, *et al.*)

Family Law – Removal of Child From Home – Meetings

This bill specifies that at any meeting of a local department of social services during which the removal of a child from the child’s home is discussed, specified information must be redacted from the case file and may not be referenced. A local department must keep minutes of any meetings during which the removal of a child from the child’s home is discussed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect the workload or finances of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The following information must be redacted from the case file: (1) the name and gender of the child and the child’s parents; (2) the race or ethnicity of the child and the child’s parents; (3) the sexual orientation of the child and the child’s parents; (4) the address of the child and the child’s parents; (5) the birth order of the child and the number of children of the parents; (6) the religious and political affiliation or beliefs of the child and the child’s parents; (7) the marital status, income, and education level of the child’s parents; (8) the type of education chosen by the parents for the child, as applicable and specified; and (9) any prior investigation of the child’s parents for child abuse or neglect that resulted in an unsubstantiated or ruled out finding.

Current Law: The Social Services Administration within DHS is responsible for providing child welfare services to a child and the child's parent or guardian. This includes the establishment of a program of out-of-home placements for minor children in specified circumstances. Statutory provisions set forth a process by which a child may be removed from the home and placed in an out-of-home placement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510