

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 693
Judiciary

(Delegate Malone)

Judicial Proceedings

Paternity Proceedings – Court Orders – Legal Name Change of Child

This bill authorizes a court to include a provision regarding the legal name change of a child in an order issued in a paternity proceeding.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect the operations or finances of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect the operations or finances of the circuit courts.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statutory provisions set forth a process to establish the paternity of a child. In an order issued as part of a paternity matter, the court may include a provision, directed to any party, regarding custody of the child, visitation privileges with the child, giving bond, or any other matter that is related to the general welfare and best interests of the child.

Maryland Rule 15-901 sets forth procedures for a change of name other than in connection with an adoption or divorce. An action for a change of name must be brought in the county where the person who wants the name change resides. Upon the filing of a petition for a change of name, the court clerk must issue a notice that includes the caption of the action, the substance of the petition and the relief sought, and the latest date by which an objection

to the petition may be filed. Unless the court on motion of the petitioner orders otherwise, the notice must be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation, as specified.

After the time for filing objections and responses has expired, the court may either hold a hearing or rule on the petition without a hearing and must enter an appropriate order. A petition may not be denied without a hearing if one was requested by the petitioner.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2020
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