

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 148
Judiciary

(Delegate Henson, *et al.*)

Family Law - Nonpayment of Child Support - Sentencing

This bill requires that any sentence imposed due to an individual's willful failure to provide support for a minor child must be served concurrently with any other sentence imposed against the individual for the same offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State incarceration costs. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local incarceration costs. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A parent may not willfully fail to provide for the support of his or her minor child. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine and/or three years imprisonment. Instead of or in addition to imposing the criminal penalty, the court may also (1) order the individual to pay child support periodically, as specified, or order the individual to make payments as provided in an existing agreement and (2) place the individual on probation on the individual's entering into a recognizance. The court must consider the financial circumstances of the accused individual in imposing such an order and may modify the order as circumstances require.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery and Worcester counties; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 2020
mr/lgc

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