



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 398

PRINTERS NO. 372

PRIME SPONSOR: Owlett

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 398, Printer's Number 372, amends the Human Services Code regarding medical support from noncustodial parents. This legislation would be effective in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: HB 398 requires all applicants and recipients, as a condition of eligibility, to cooperate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) in securing medical support from the noncustodial parent of any child for whom medical assistance is sought or provided. The bill provides that DHS may not accept a private agreement between a custodial parent and noncustodial parent that the custodial parent will provide medical support if the agreement results in the child foregoing medical support which would otherwise be available to the child under Title 23, Section 4326 (relating to mandatory inclusion of child medical support).

The bill provides for exceptions to the requirement to seek medical support if the custodial parent is a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by the noncustodial parent, it would endanger the well-being of the child by interrupting the child's continuity of medical care, or seeking medical support from the noncustodial parent would harm either the child or the custodial parent's well-being as documented in accordance with regulations promulgated by DHS.

A noncustodial parent that is found to have withheld information relevant to seeking medical support shall reimburse DHS for the cost of medical assistance provided to the child.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation could result in increased workload for DHS child support enforcement staff and necessitate IT system changes, which can be accommodated within existing resources. Therefore, this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Nick McClure
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 24, 2022

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.