

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2001 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB1710

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Deeds

**3. Committee** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title** Civil action for stalking.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

This bill provides that a person may maintain a civil action against an individual who engaged in stalking, whether or not the individual has been charged or convicted for the alleged violation. If compensatory damages are awarded, a victim may also be awarded punitive damages.

**6. Fiscal Impact:** Final (see #8 below).

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

While it is likely that the result of this bill could increase the civil caseload of the courts, it is not possible to estimate how many new cases will result from this legislation. According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, the expected overall increase in caseload would not be very large. If the action were brought in the circuit court, and the case required two hours to try and an additional hour for pre-trial review of the pleadings and subsequent preparation of any orders, then the workload of a judge may be impacted. In addition, an increase in workload results from the time required of the circuit clerk's office to prepare the file, sit in on the trial, and close the case file. Likewise, if the case is brought before the general district court, then the workload of judges and clerks could also be impacted.

If the workload in the circuit and general district courts increase to an unacceptable level, then additional judgeship and clerk positions may have to be added. Neither the House Appropriations Committee nor the Senate Finance Committee recommended additional funding for this legislation.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** The court system and the Compensation Board.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 02/26/01 / jlm

**Document:** HB1710ER122 (D F:\JLM\Legist01\hb1710ER.doc)

cc: Secretary of Administration

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