

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1890

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

2. Patron Griffith

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Preliminary protective orders in cases of family abuse & stalking.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Provides that in those instances involving protective orders in cases of family abuse and in stalking cases, upon motion of the respondent and for good cause shown, the court may continue the hearing for a determination on the issuance of a permanent protective order.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications:

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, the impact of this bill could increase the number of hearings due to continuances. In 1999, there were 33,978 petitions related to domestic violence in juvenile and domestic relations district courts. If one-third of those petitions were proceedings for preliminary protective orders in cases of domestic abuse and if, in turn, one-third of those proceedings had continuances, then there could be 3,775 additional hearings. In order to show "good cause" to continue a hearing, there must be a hearing to show good cause. If each hearing lasted 10 minutes, and required an additional five minutes of clerical work on the part of the clerk's office, then the court system could experience an increase in workload. If the workload increases to an unacceptable level, then additional judgeship and clerk positions may have to be added.

The court system does not have separate statistics for the number of stalking cases, but it is not believed to be a large number, and any impact from continuances of those cases could be absorbed with present court resources.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

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cc: Secretary of Administration

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