

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1343ER

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:** Surovell

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

4. **Title:** Reimbursement for cost of guardian ad litem.

5. **Summary:** Codifies the requirement that, for cases in which a guardian ad litem has been appointed, the court shall order the parent or other party with a legitimate interest who has filed a petition in such case to reimburse the Commonwealth for the costs of the guardian ad litem. The bill provides that if a party is unable to pay, the court may reduce or eliminate the reimbursement and that no party whom the court determines to be indigent pursuant to § 19.2-159 shall be required to pay reimbursement except where the court finds good cause to do so. The bill further provides that the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court shall administer the guardian ad litem program and shall report August 1 and January 1 of each year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the amounts paid for guardian ad litem purposes, amounts reimbursed, savings achieved, and management actions taken to further enhance savings under the program.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final (see Item #8)

8. **Fiscal Implications:** According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on court system resources.

In FY 2016, OES records indicate that \$2,150,429 was reimbursed by parents, guardians and parties with a legitimate interest in cases in which a guardian ad litem was appointed. Although it is possible the proposed legislation could increase the amount of reimbursements of guardian ad litem related costs, the precise amount cannot be quantified.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** None