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FISCAL NOTE (Form 1)
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)
Analyst: AC 4/16/92
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Version:

BILL NUMBER: SHB 5748
FILE NUMBER:
AMENDMENTS:

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SUPPORT AND VISITATION RIGHTS"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Judiciary

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/92

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5748

STATE IMPACT Yes, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT None
STATE AGENCY(S) Various State Agencies

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The passage of the bill could result in a potential minimal cost to the Judicial Department, Division of Criminal Justice and the Department of Correction. The bill establishes and increases the penalties for certain acts of custodial interference. To the extent that more individuals would be prosecuted and sentenced, these agencies would realize an increase in caseload, the extent of which cannot be determined. In addition, the State may realize a potential minimal revenue gain from the fines associated with these penalties.

It is estimated that the Department of Human Resources will incur costs of \$10,000 for operating expenses of the Commission for Child Support Guidelines in response to Section 1 of the bill, which requires the updating of guidelines by January, 1993.

It is estimated that Section 5 of the bill will result in a \$3 million savings to the Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Program. This would result from execution of approximately 700 new orders for employed fathers to provide medical insurance to children receiving benefits under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. To the extent that such orders would be executed in cases in which the father is a State employee, a potential cost for State employee health insurance may result.

It is estimated that Section 7 of the bill would result in a revenue loss of approximately \$350,000 to the State. This provision of the bill would result in the notification of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in approximately 2,500 fewer cases. The Department of Human Resources currently notifies the IRS in cases

involving AFDC and non-AFDC Title IV-D support in which more than \$150 in child support is owed. The bill would raise this limit to \$500.

An estimated \$261,000 in revenue to the State is anticipated as a result of garnishing State Income Tax refunds from an estimated 3,000 estimated individuals.

The requirement that the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) modify its systems for the retention of State income tax refunds in child support cases would result in a minimal cost, that can be absorbed within normal budgetary resources. If the information supplied to DRS does not include the individual's Social Security number there may be additional costs, the extent of which cannot be determined at this time.

No fiscal impact is associated with provisions of the bill regarding adoption of a fee schedule.

A revenue gain would be associated with Section 11 of the bill which would allow the State to recover court costs, which total approximately \$2.8 million per year. Receipt of revenues would be dependent upon the defendant's ability to pay, which cannot be determined at this time.