Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB965 E **Patron:** Carroll Foy
Bill Title: Recording of proceedings in district courts.

Bill Summary: Allows an audio recording of proceedings in a district court, which includes both general district court and juvenile and domestic relations district court, to be made by a party or his counsel. Under current law, such recordings are only allowed in a general district court. The bill allows the judge of a juvenile and domestic relations district court to impose any restriction as necessary to comply with the confidentiality requirements applicable to such district court.

The bill prohibits judges of a district court from (i) ordering or require a party or his counsel to submit a copy of an audio recording made pursuant to this section to the clerk of a district court to be maintained in such party's individual case file or (ii) prohibiting a party or his counsel from providing such copy to the opposing party or his counsel. The engrossed version of the bill adds transcript of such recordings in addition to the copies prohibited in (i) and (ii).

Present law allows a party or his counsel to, in his discretion, provide a copy of an audio recording made to the opposing party or his counsel. The engrossed version of the bill strikes this allowance.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES) this bill is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on Courts.

Fiscal Analysis: None required

Other: None