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

PUBLISHED: 2/18/2025 9:00 AM ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2222 ER **Patron:** Cousins Use of restraints on juveniles in court prohibited; exceptions.

Bill Summary: Prohibits the use of instruments of restraint, as defined in the bill, on a juvenile appearing before the juvenile and domestic relations district court unless the court makes a finding that (i) the use of such restraints is necessary (a) to prevent physical harm to such juvenile or another person, (b) because such juvenile has a history of disruptive courtroom behavior that has placed others in potentially harmful situations or presents a substantial threat of serious harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior, or (c) because such juvenile presents a substantial risk of flight from the courtroom and (ii) there are no less restrictive alternatives to such restraints that will prevent flight of or harm to such juvenile or another person, including court personnel or law-enforcement officers.

The bill entitles the juvenile to an attorney prior to a hearing on the use of restraints. The bill requires the court to provide the juvenile's attorney an opportunity to be heard before the court orders the use of restraints and provides that the attorney may waive the juvenile's appearance at such hearing.

The bill requires that if such restraints are ordered, the court must communicate to the parties the basis of the decision either orally or in writing.

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 fiscal impact on Courts.

Fiscal Analysis: None required

Other: This bill is the same as SB1255 ER