

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7620**  
**BILL NUMBER: HB 1445**

**DATE PREPARED: Jan 6, 1999**  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Child custody for care givers.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Ron Sobecki  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** No Fiscal Impact

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill expands the factors that a court must consider in determining child custody whenever the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the child has been cared for by a de facto custodian. The bill defines a de facto custodian as a person who has been the primary care giver for, and financial support of, the child for a certain period. It provides that whenever a court finds sufficient evidence that a person has been a de facto custodian of a child, the court shall: (1) make the de facto custodian a party to the proceeding; and (2) award custody of the child to the de facto custodian if the court determines that it is in the best interests of the child. It makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**