

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

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6053

BILL NUMBER: HB 1856

DATE PREPARED: Oct 23, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Covenant marriage.

FISCAL ANALYST: Ron Sobecki

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines covenant marriage. The bill provides that couples can designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. It requires a marriage license to indicate if the marriage is a covenant marriage. This bill establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. The bill requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. The bill provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage. It requires the State Department of Health to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Interim Study Committee on Family Law Issues.)

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There may some minimal cost to the State Department of Health (SDOH) in developing a new form for circuit court clerks to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage. There may also be minimal cost to the State Department of Health in creating the pamphlet required in this bill providing information on covenant marriage. Both of these costs can be absorbed in the existing SDOH budget.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit courts; circuit court clerks.

Information Sources: