

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 First Reader

House Bill 1366 (Delegate Nkongolo)  
 Judiciary

Family Law - Final Protective Orders - Duration

This bill alters the duration of a final protective order such that, if a respondent is on probation at the time a final protective order is issued, or if the respondent is placed on probation during the effective period of a final protective order, the relief granted in the final protective order may not terminate before the probation expires or is terminated by court order.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$223,100 in FY 2027 only for one-time programming costs. Otherwise, the bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	223,100	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$223,100)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

Analysis

**Current Law:** An individual meeting specified relationship requirements may seek relief from abuse by filing a petition for a protective order with the court or, if the clerk’s office

is closed, with a District Court Commissioner. Statute sets forth certain procedures and requirements for interim and temporary protective orders.

A final protective order may be granted if the judge finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged abuse has occurred or if the respondent consents to the entry of the order. Among other relief, a final protective order may order the respondent to (1) refrain from abusing or threatening to abuse any person eligible for relief; (2) refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief; (3) refrain from entering the residence of any person eligible for relief; (4) award emergency family maintenance as necessary to support any person eligible for relief to whom the respondent has a duty of support, as specified; or (5) pay filing fees and costs. A final protective order may also address issues relating to custody and visitation, use and possession of a home or vehicle, counseling, and temporary possession of a pet. A final protective order must require the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the respondent's possession and to refrain from possession of any firearm for the duration of the protective order.

All relief granted in a final protective order is effective for the period stated in the order, generally up to a maximum of 12 months. A final protective order may be issued for up to two years in specified circumstances set forth in statute. Statutory provisions also set forth circumstances under which a final protective order may be modified, rescinded, or extended.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase for the Judiciary by \$223,116 in fiscal 2027 only for one-time programming changes to automatically ensure all final protective orders are reviewed prior to their assigned expiration and confirm the respondent is not on probation.

**Additional Comments:** The Judiciary advises that in fiscal 2025, the District Court granted 8,542 final protective orders; the circuit courts granted 3,825.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2026  
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