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CREATE SPOUSAL SUPPORT FORMULA

House Bill 4656

Sponsor: Rep. Jessie Dalman

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 6-9-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4656 AS INTRODUCED 4-22-97

The bill would amend the Friend of the Court Act to require the state Friend of the Court Bureau (in the State Court Administrative Office) to develop and recommend a formula to be used in establishing and modifying spousal support amounts. The formula would have to be based on, and include a consideration of, all of the following:

- (1) The needs of the recipient spouse, including health care expenses;
- (2) The relative needs and earning ability of each spouse; and
- (3) The amount of child support the payer was required to pay for children involved in the same action.

In addition, the bill would increase the requirements for the human service professionals who serve on the nine-person Friend of the Court Bureau advisory committee. Currently, the committee consists of three public members who have had contact with an office of the friend of the court, three attorneys (not more than one of whom could be a circuit court judge) whose practices are primarily domestic relations law, and three human service professionals who provide family counseling. The bill would require that the three human service professional members each have a postgraduate degree, be licensed or registered by the state, and provide family counseling.

The bill would take effect January 1, 1998.

MCL 552.519

Analyst: W. Flory

House Bill 4656 (6-9-97)

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.