

# Fiscal Analysis

## APPORTION BIRTH EXPENSES BETWEEN PARENTS



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**Bill/Sponsor**                      **HOUSE BILL 4013 SUBSTITUTE H-1, Rep. Gary Newell**

**House Committee**                Judiciary

### **Analysis**

#### **Summary**

This bill would amend the Paternity Act, Public Act 205 of 1956, to apportion the expenses of the mother's confinement and pregnancy and funeral expenses based on the parent's ability to pay when a child is born out of wedlock. The current law specifies that the father is responsible for these expenses. This apportionment shall not occur unless the party requesting apportionment produces itemized bills for these expenses. If Medicaid has paid the confinement and pregnancy expenses, the court shall not apportion these expenses to the mother, and the father shall be apportioned not more than 100% of these expenses, based on his ability to pay. If the father marries the mother after the birth of the child, the father's obligation for payment of any remaining confinement and pregnancy expenses is tolled for the duration of the marriage.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no significant fiscal impact on the Judiciary, and no fiscal impact on the Family Independence Agency.

### **Analyst(s)**

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**FLOOR ANALYSIS - 7/2/03**

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