

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7330
BILL NUMBER: HB 2112

DATE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2001
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Covenant Marriage.

FISCAL ANALYST: Kathy Norris
PHONE NUMBER: 234-1360

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		18,095	7,095
Net Increase (Decrease)		(18,095)	(7,095)

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 whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. The bill also establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. It also 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 further 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, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There may be 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 and 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. The Department estimates that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems adjustments and \$7,095 for the first year, and each year thereafter, for additional printing and postage expenditures.

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: Norma Selby, Grant Coordinator, Finance Division, State Department of Health,
(317) 233-7573.