2023 SESSION

23-0549
04/08

HOUSE BILL ***471-FN***

AN ACT relative to final disposition hearings in divorce proceedings.

SPONSORS: Rep. Yokela, Rock. 32

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the court to schedule a final disposition hearing upon the issuance of temporary orders in a divorce proceeding.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 471-FN - AS INTRODUCED

23-0549
04/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to final disposition hearings in divorce proceedings.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Paragraph; Annulment, Divorce, and Separation; Temporary Relief and Permanent Restraining Orders. Amend RSA 458:16 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Upon the issuance of temporary orders in a divorce proceeding, the court shall schedule a final disposition hearing. The court may reschedule the final disposition hearing for just cause.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA
23-0549
12/29/22

HB 471-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to final disposition hearings in divorce proceedings.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Appropriation	$0	$0	$0	$0
Revenue	$0	$0	$0	$0
Expenditures	$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	[X] General	[ ] Education	[ ] Highway	[ ] Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the court to schedule a final disposition hearing at the same time it issues temporary orders in a divorce proceeding. The Judicial Branch states when temporary orders are issued, the parties are less likely to know what issues if any will be contested by the time of the final hearing nor will the Branch know how much time, if any would be needed for a hearing. The Branch states this bill may result in significant inefficiencies in the Court's schedule by booking hearings without knowing time restraints or if hearings are needed. This could result in additional court personnel being scheduled, hearings canceled, or other modification while trying to fill court hearing dockets. The Judicial Branch indicates this bill will increase General fund expenditures by an indeterminable amount.

It is assumed any fiscal impact would not occur until FY 2024.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch