

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 579 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*)

Finance

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Health Insurance - Universal Coverage

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This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission (HCACC) to develop a plan to provide universal health care coverage to eligible residents of the State. The Governor will appoint a nine-member advisory committee to assist HCACC in the development of this plan. HCACC must submit a report on the universal health care coverage plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2000.

This bill is effective June 1, 1999.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures and revenues each could increase by \$100,000 for FY 2000. No effect on future year expenditures or revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
SF Revenues	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditures	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** HCACC will have to hire a consultant to help research a single payor system and assist with the development of the plan for universal health care coverage. HCACC estimates that consultant fees will cost approximately \$100,000 in fiscal 2000. This figure reflects an estimated 400 billable hours at \$250 per hour in consultant fees. Future year expenditures would not be affected.

HCACC is specially funded through fees imposed on payors and providers. As a result of the increase in expenditures, HCACC would raise provider fees by an amount to exactly offset the increase in expenditures.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Care Access and Cost Commission), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 1999  
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