

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 710 (Senators Pinsky and Exum)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Mosquito-Borne Public Health Hazards

This bill establishes a ten-member task force to study mosquito-borne public health hazards. The task force must: (1) establish the criteria for defining mosquito-borne public health hazards; (2) establish methods for identifying and monitoring the disease vectors; (3) establish thresholds for intervention to control infected mosquitos or disease carriers; (4) establish the least toxic strategies to prevent infestations; (5) establish methods that utilize biological, mechanical, and cultural practices; (6) establish procedures that ensure public right-to-know notice before pesticides are used; (7) establish procedures for transferring decision making power for managing mosquito-borne health hazards solely from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to an oversight coordinating committee made up of representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Maryland Department of the Environment, and MDA; and (8) establish procedures for exempting organic farmers from pesticide applications. MDA and DHMH must provide staff support for the task force to the extent possible within existing budgeted resources. The task force must issue a final report of its findings, recommendations, and comprehensive strategy to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2000.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000 and sunsets May 31, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MDA and DHMH are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The Mosquito Control Section of MDA works in cooperation with 22 counties and Baltimore City in over 1,700 communities to prevent the occurrence of mosquito-borne diseases in humans, pets, and livestock. The program relies on surveys and monitoring of mosquito populations to coordinate control activities including breeding source reduction, public education, biological control, and insecticide applications from aircraft or ground equipment. MDA currently provides approximately \$1 million in services and matching funds to participating county and local governments for local mosquito control services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2000
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