

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 29 (Senator DeGrange)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Alcohol and Drug Abuse - Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Programs -
Demonstration of Need Prior to Approval or Certification**

This bill contains specific requirements relating to the approval, reapproval, certification, or recertification of an alcohol and drug abuse program. It requires the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to ensure that all new and existing programs be coordinated with and integrated into a broad plan for comprehensive community health services. The ADAA may not approve a new or expanding program unless the program: (1) demonstrates the existence of local need for additional services; and (2) gives notice of its application to, and provides an opportunity to meet with, specified local officials and those community associations within a one-mile radius of the program's location or proposed location. It also allows the ADAA to adopt regulations that require a program seeking approval to submit information on the nature and scope of the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The ADAA could fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to this bill with existing resources. Overall funding levels for alcohol and drug abuse programs would remain the same.

Local Effect: Any additional workload for local health department staff and local government personnel could be handled with existing resources. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration is to promote, develop, establish, conduct, certify, and monitor programs for drug and alcohol prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. This purview includes the approval, reapproval, certification, or recertification of programs, pilot projects, correctional facility programs, and research. DHMH must issue a certificate to an individual or organization providing alcohol and drug abuse treatment, care, and rehabilitation services that meets DHMH's certification requirements. Additionally, an individual or organization may not operate an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program in Maryland unless it is certified by DHMH.

Background: Six program areas are involved in drug and alcohol abuse treatment and care under ADAA. These include outpatient care, criminal justice client care, residential programs, halfway house facilities, methadone maintenance, and an evaluation/preservation/education unit. As indicated in the Governor's proposed fiscal 2001 budget, there are a total of 125 facilities in six programs in Maryland receiving ADAA grant funds (72% general and 28% federal) through the local health departments.

Local Fiscal Effect: Increased staff time will be needed by local health department staff and local government administration personnel if community meetings result from the notification procedures outlined in this legislation. Increased time for the health department staff will be needed to ensure that programs seeking approval are integrated into, and coordinated with, a broad plan for comprehensive community health services. Additional time will be needed to evaluate materials and data submitted by the program regarding local need for additional services. The workload increase, however, can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: The majority of drug and alcohol abuse programs are operated by non-profit entities. Few of the program providers in Maryland are assumed to be small businesses and the impact of compliance should be minimal. Providers will have a small increase in expenditures due to the requirements for demonstration of need and notification of certain officials and agencies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 82 (Delegate Sophocleus) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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