

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1273

(Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders - Termination Date Extension and Modifications

This bill alters the composition and number of members on the renamed Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders created by Chapter 297 of 2003. The bill modifies existing study and reporting requirements.

The termination date of Chapter 297 is extended from December 31, 2005 to December 31, 2006.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$35,000 in FY 2006 to commission the study. Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	35,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$35,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill increases the number of task force members from 24 to 39, including a State Senator and Delegate. Additionally, it increases the number of consumers on the task force from two to three, and replaces the member from the Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Inc. with a member from the Mental Health Association of Maryland. Additionally, it removes from the task force a representative who is a consumer of a co-occurring disorder services or who has a family member who uses such services.

The bill authorizes the Governor to remove a member who is absent from two or more task force meetings and appoint another member to fill the seat. Task force members not in attendance are not to be considered absent if the task force chairman has excused them or if a designated individual represents the member at the meeting.

The bill also requires that the task force identify the number of treatment disparities and make recommendations on addressing treatment disparities for African-Americans, older adults, and children and youth with co-occurring disorders. Furthermore the task force must develop a joint protocol that could be used by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) and the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) on the treatment of individuals with co-occurring disorders. The task force also is required to study and make recommendations on decisions affecting individuals with co-occurring disorders that should be made jointly by ADAA and MHA, and to study the feasibility of creating an advisory board within DHMH on the termination of the task force. The task force must issue an annual report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; and the House Health and Government Operations committees by December 1 of each year.

MHA is required to conduct or commission a study on the relationship between substance use and mental health among counties in Maryland. MHA and ADAA are required to report to the Governor; the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; the Senate Finance Committee; and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by January 1, 2006.

Current Law: Chapter 297 of 2003 created a 24-member Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders staffed by MHA and ADAA. The task force must issue an interim report on its findings and

recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2004 and a final report by December 1, 2005. MHA must conduct or commission a study on the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness among counties in Maryland. The study's findings and recommendations are due to the Governor; the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; the Senate Finance Committee; and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by January 1, 2004. The task force terminates December 31, 2005.

State Fiscal Effect: While annual reimbursable expenses associated with the additional task force members are expected to increase, it is assumed that these expenditures could be absorbed within existing resources. Clerical staffing by MHA and ADAA should also be absorbable within existing resources.

The bill requires MHA to conduct or commission a study regarding the relationship between substance use and mental health among counties in Maryland. MHA advises that this study would cost \$35,000 to implement, and that it would contract out the study. This estimate assumes that the State would pay all costs of the contract up front.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2005
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