

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 774

(Senator Britt, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Cervical Cancer Committee - HPV Vaccine Subcommittee

This bill establishes a subcommittee on the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) existing Cervical Cancer Committee of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. The subcommittee must • examine federal and state programs relating to the HPV vaccine; • develop a public awareness and education campaign about the vaccine with an emphasis on parental education; • evaluate the availability and affordability of the vaccine; • identify barriers to the vaccine's administration to all recommended individuals; • identify and evaluate various resources to cover the vaccine's costs; and • identify and evaluate appropriate mechanisms Maryland may use to increase access to the vaccine.

Annually, by September 1, the subcommittee must report its findings and recommendations to the committee. The findings and recommendations must be included in the committee's findings and recommendations for the annual State Council on Cancer Control report.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for subcommittee members and related staffing costs could be handled within existing budgeted resources. Existing staff could develop the public awareness and education campaign. Implementing the campaign would increase general fund expenditures depending on the campaign's scope and the type of media used.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Cervical Cancer Committee of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan promotes public awareness on the causes and nature of cervical cancer, personal risk factors, the value of prevention, early detection, options for testing, treatment costs, new technology, medical care reimbursement, and physician education. The committee also examines new and emerging medicines, including vaccines that are being developed to cure cervical cancer. DHMH provides staff for the committee.

The committee must present its findings and recommendations in the State Council on Cancer Control report to the Governor and General Assembly annually by October 1.

Immunization against certain diseases is required for a student to be admitted and stay in a public or private school. A parent or guardian must provide the school with evidence that a child received the age-appropriate immunizations following the immunization schedule recommended by the Subcommittee on Immunizations and Infectious Diseases of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. A student is exempt from these immunization requirements if the parent or guardian objects on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with the parents' or guardian's bona fide religious beliefs and practices.

Chapter 333 of 2005 requires a health insurer, nonprofit health plan, or HMO to provide coverage for HPV screening.

Background: Two types of HPV cause most cervical cancers. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, with more than 20 million men and women currently infected and 6.2 million new infections annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HPV is most common in women and men in their late teens and early 20s. By age 50, at least 80% of women will have HPV.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommended last year that Gardasil, a vaccine to protect against HPV, be routinely given to girls at ages 11 and 12. Gardasil was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2006. ACIP's recommendation also allows for girls to be vaccinated beginning at age 9 and for girls and women from ages 13 to 26 to be vaccinated. Gardasil is the first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions, and genital warts due to HPV.

According to CDC, the vaccine is highly effective against four types of the HPV virus, including the two types that cause approximately 70% of cervical cancers.

Gardasil is manufactured by Merck & Co. The vaccine is administered in a three-dose series of shots that costs \$360. Another HPV vaccine manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline PLC is expected to be approved by the FDA this year.

DHMH has updated its recommended immunization schedule to include ACIP's recommendation that the HPV vaccine be routinely administered for girls ages 11 and 12 during their preadolescent doctor's visit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1049 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; “HPV vaccine advised for girls,” *Washington Post*, June 30, 2006; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2007
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 5, 2007

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510