

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 339

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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Drug Treatment - Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council - Study of  
the State's Approach to Drug Treatment

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This bill requires the Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to include in its two-year strategic plan a review of the State's approach to drug treatment, including a review of the appropriate location of treatment services and the use of employment and housing services for individuals in treatment.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** ADAA must promote, develop, establish, conduct, certify, and monitor programs for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation related to the misuse of alcohol and drugs; and promote and conduct training and research related to the misuse of alcohol and drugs.

In cooperation with the Motor Vehicle Administration, courts, police, and other agencies, ADAA must approve appropriate programs of alcohol and drug abuse education or treatment of individuals who are convicted of driving under the influence of or impaired by alcohol, driving while impaired by one or more drugs, driving while impaired by one or more drugs and alcohol, or driving while impaired by a controlled dangerous substance. These programs must be coordinated with and integrated into broad planning for comprehensive community health and welfare services.

ADAA must review and, according to ADAA regulations, approve or disapprove each program that a public or private agency wants to offer to fulfill a court-ordered alcohol or drug treatment or education program if an individual has been convicted of driving under the influence of or impaired by alcohol, driving while impaired by one or more drugs, driving while impaired by one or more drugs and alcohol, or driving while impaired by a controlled dangerous substance. ADAA must • promptly give the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) notice of each program; • monitor and biennially renew each program; • investigate each complaint made in connection with a program; and • promptly give AOC notice if DHMH withdraws its approval of any program.

**Background:** The Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council was established by Executive Order as part of a comprehensive strategy to coordinate substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services, and improve the criminal justice and correctional systems' links to these services. The council prepares and annually updates a two-year strategic plan that identifies priorities for the delivery and funding of services to the State.

Some of the council's other responsibilities include • identifying potential funding sources; • identifying promising practices in substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment; • conducting annual surveys of federal and State funds used in Maryland for substance abuse prevention and treatment; • identifying emerging needs; and • determining emerging needs.

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### **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 5, 2007  
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