

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 790 (Senator Klausmeier)  
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene - Meningococcal Disease - Distribution of Information

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide public Internet access to specific informational resources on meningococcal disease vaccine availability, as well as the risks associated with the disease and vaccination. The Secretary has to notify each institution of higher education, secondary school, and licensed child care center in the State about the available information. In turn, each institution of higher education, secondary school, and child care center has to notify parents and guardians, about the available Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) resources.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$200,000 in FY 2010 for DHMH to print and distribute notifications to each institution of higher education, secondary school, and child care center in the State. Future years are constant, assuming DHMH prints and distributes the notifications on an annual basis. Minimal operational impact on institutions of higher education to provide the required notice. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Net Effect	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)

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

**Local Effect:** Minimal operational impact on secondary schools that have to notify parents and guardians about the available DHMH resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal operational impact on small child care centers that have to notify parents and guardians about the available DHMH resources.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Secretary has to adopt rules and regulations to prevent the introduction or spread of an infectious, contagious, or other disease that endangers public health in the State.

With certain exceptions, an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education who lives in on-campus housing has to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

**Background:** Meningococcal disease is an acute bacterial infection and potentially fatal. Invasive meningococcal disease occurs in three common clinical forms: meningitis (49% of cases), blood infection (33%), pneumonia (9%); and other forms which account for the remainder (9%) of the cases. Common signs of the disease include sudden fever, intense headaches, neck stiffness, nausea, and frequent vomiting. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sporadic cases and outbreaks occur throughout the world; however, in sub-Saharan Africa, from Mali to Ethiopia, meningococcal disease occurs regularly during the dry season. CDC recommends that anyone traveling to this area receive a vaccination. Meningococcal disease should be treated early with antibiotics.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$200,000 in fiscal 2010 for DHMH to print and distribute notifications to each institution of higher education, secondary school, and child care center in the State. If DHMH were required to make the notification just one time, future years would not be affected. However, Legislative Services assumes that DHMH will print and distribute the notifications on an annual basis given that the population in child care centers, secondary schools, and institution of higher education changes on an annual basis. Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$200,000 in future years as well.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Community College, Department of Human Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Morgan State University, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2009  
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