

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 874 (Delegate Howard, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Oversight Committee on Monitoring and Quality of Care in Group Homes

This bill creates the Oversight Committee on Monitoring and Quality of Care in Group Homes. The committee must evaluate the progress in improving the monitoring and quality of care in group homes in the State and develop recommendations for continued improvement. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) must provide staff for the committee. The committee must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2011.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010, and terminates June 30, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. DHR can provide staff for the oversight committee using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The committee's evaluation must include consideration of the following factors for group homes and group home residents:

- the effectiveness of monitoring;
- quality of care standards;

- quality of education and educational services;
- quality of positive social interactions;
- staffing patterns and standards;
- policies and procedures, including those related to responding to complaints;
- a comparison of State standards, policies, and procedures to those in other states;
- the labor pool available for staffing; and
- the provision and quality of supervision.

Current Law: Group homes represent one form of out-of-home placement. Group homes offer homelike settings that provide structure and 24-hour supervision, basic care, social work, and health care services. Many group homes utilize community-based ancillary services and enroll children in the local school system. Each child placed in a group home is also assigned a caseworker from the referring agency responsible for monitoring the child's progress and the appropriateness of the placement.

The departments of Juvenile Services, Human Resources, and Health and Mental Hygiene license, monitor, and place children in group homes according to individual agency standards. The licensing agencies monitor group homes through review of records, inspection of facilities, and staff and resident interviews. The Resource Development and Licensing Committee (a standing interagency committee of the Children's Cabinet) focuses on the coordination of the licensing and monitoring process for group homes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2010
mlm/hlb

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