

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 385

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Health, Education, and Social Services - Submission of Documents in Electronic Form

This bill requires the Council for the Procurement of Health, Education, and Social Services to establish a workgroup (of council members and appropriate staff from the State agencies that license health, education, or social services programs) to determine a process for nongovernmental entities that provide such services in the State to submit documents in an electronic form to the State agencies. The process must include security measures; standards necessary for the efficient and secure transmission of electronic documents; a recommended implementation date; and procedures for naming, formatting, submitting, updating, and retrieving documents. By January 1, 2014, the council must report to specified committees of the General Assembly on the processes that it determines. The bill specifies that it may not be construed to limit any existing authority of a State agency to accept documents or information by electronic transmission.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapters 438 and 439 of 2008 (SB 686/HB 527) established the Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies to:

- evaluate and make recommendations regarding the methods used by State agencies to procure the delivery of health and social services;
- examine and make recommendations regarding State agencies' timeliness in preparing and issuing specified reports and in making payments to contractors;
- examine and make recommendations regarding possible standardization of contracting processes; and
- identify and make recommendations regarding other issues affecting the efficiency and cost of procuring health and social services.

A preliminary report from the task force was due by November 30, 2008, but no members of the task force had been appointed by that time. Chapter 683 of 2010 (HB 531) altered the task force's membership, expanded its scope to include procurement of education services, extended its authorization until June 30, 2012, and required a final report by November 30, 2011.

Among the 36 recommendations included in the task force's final report is a recommendation to "[u]se the State's eGovernment contract to develop an Internet-based data warehouse (document vault) that would eliminate the need for providers to submit the same documents to multiple agencies." Other recommendations included in the report are related to streamlining and standardizing State procurement processes, improving the timeliness of State payments to providers, and enhancing the use of technology in the procurement and contract monitoring processes.

Chapters 212 and 213 (SB 315/HB 217) of 2012 established the Council for the Procurement of Health, Education, and Social Services to advise the Board of Public Works (BPW) and monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the task force. Staffing for the council is provided by agencies represented on the council and by BPW, in accordance with the State budget. By December 31 of each year, the council is required to report to the General Assembly on its activities and recommendations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 327 (Delegate Ready, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Information Technology, Board of Public Works, Governor's Office for Children, Department of Budget and Management, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Secretary of State, Department of Legislative Services

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