

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 386 (Senator Middleton)
 Finance

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Study of Paratransit Services for
 Dialysis Patients**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to conduct a study of paratransit services provided for dialysis patients in the State. DHMH must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly by December 15, 2013.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by up to \$100,000 in FY 2014 to reflect the cost of contractual services to assist DHMH in the completion of the required study. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	100,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$100,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies that the study must (1) determine the number of dialysis treatments annually that require paratransit services, the number of paratransit trips provided annually for dialysis patients, and the number and location of dialysis centers in each jurisdiction in the State; (2) evaluate whether dialysis treatments requiring paratransit services are being scheduled efficiently, including whether patients are being scheduled for treatments at dialysis centers nearest to their residences; and (3) determine whether coordination may be improved, with regard to the scheduling of appointments for multiple patients living in close proximity to one another, in order to allow for a more efficient use of paratransit services.

Current Law/Background: Paratransit services are provided by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) through contracts with two private companies. The paratransit service area consists of any Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Anne Arundel County location within three-quarters of a mile of any MTA fixed-route service location. The Citizens Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation, a federally mandated advisory committee, advises MTA regarding programs and services (paratransit as well as fixed-route) affecting disabled individuals who use MTA modes of transportation.

Although paratransit ridership increased by approximately 9% in fiscal 2011, annual growth in ridership is expected to stabilize at approximately 4%. Paratransit is one of the more costly services provided by MTA.

State Expenditures: DHMH advises that contractual services are needed to complete the required study and estimates the total cost of these services to be \$100,000. Because DHMH lacks expertise in the subject of paratransit services (and transportation generally), and given that the study must be completed less than six months after the bill's effective date, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) agrees that contractual services are needed.

Thus, DLS advises that general fund expenditures increase by up to \$100,000 in fiscal 2014 to reflect the cost of contractual services to assist DHMH in the completion of the required study.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 287 (Delegate Hubbard) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2013
ncs/ljm

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