

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 647 (Senator Montgomery, *et al.*)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education and Health Occupations - Nurse Midwifery Program - Study

This bill requires the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), in cooperation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, and the State Board of Nursing, to conduct a study regarding the obstacles and barriers to establishing additional nurse-midwifery programs in the State and make recommendations on how to overcome these obstacles and barriers. By December 31, 2013, UMB must report on the results of the study and any recommendations to specified legislative committees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by up to \$25,000 in FY 2014 for UMB to conduct the study. MHEC and the State Board of Nursing can participate in the study using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	25,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$25,000)	\$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 study must include:

- an exploration of a distance education model for training nurse-midwives in the State, including the option of in-state tuition for out-of-state distance education courses;
- a plan for a marketing and outreach campaign that would attract interested students to the program;
- a process by which the program would facilitate the identification and placement of students in appropriate clinical practice sites;
- a description of the allocation or reallocation of resources necessary to fully fund the program; and
- the feasibility and advisability of a State scholarship or loan forgiveness program for midwives who work in shortage areas after graduation.

Current Law: The State Board of Nursing provides advance practice certification to nurse-midwives, who must also be licensed registered nurses. Under board regulations, an applicant for certification as a nurse-midwife must hold a current license to practice registered nursing in Maryland, hold current certification as a nurse-midwife from the American Midwifery Certification Board or any other certifying body approved by the board, and submit an affidavit that the applicant is in compliance at all times with specified clinical practice guidelines.

Background: In 2012, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) convened a Midwives Workgroup to, among other things, analyze the shortage of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) in Maryland and barriers to nurse-midwifery practice. The workgroup's January 2013 report notes that the number of births attended by CNMs or other midwives declined by 12% from 5,954 births in 1998 to 5,379 births in 2010. The board indicates that there are 214 CNMs licensed to practice in Maryland. However, it is estimated that fewer than half of those CNMs are actually practicing full-scope midwifery (independently providing antepartum, intrapartum, postpartum, or gynecologic or primary care for women). Many CNMs in Maryland are working in outpatient gynecology offices, local health departments, or family planning clinics; in teaching, administration, or research positions; or as "physician extenders" by performing prenatal care in a physician-owned practice where they are not allowed to attend deliveries. Only two or three practices in Maryland are owned and operated by CNMs.

As a result of the report's findings, DHMH recommended further exploration of the barriers to training and practice for CNMs in Maryland. While the workgroup *did not* reach consensus, the report provides a wide range of options regarding the various

charges of the workgroup. Among many others, the options presented in the report included providing in-state tuition for students attending distance midwifery programs, assuring that students attending midwifery programs via distance learning obtain clinical placements in Maryland hospitals, and establishing a State scholarship and loan forgiveness program for midwives who work in shortage areas after graduation from midwifery school.

The report noted that the only nurse-midwifery training program available in the State is the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing's CNM program, where students can earn a Master of Science in Nursing from Hopkins and a Certificate in Midwifery from Shenandoah University in Virginia (which makes this component of training a distance program). The program began admitting students in 2008 and has graduated 20 CNMs to date. With recent interest, the program has doubled the number of applications for the most recent admission cycle. The UMB School of Nursing's CNM program closed in 2009 due to the significant costs of liability insurance, declining enrollment at that time, and difficulty in finding preceptor sites for student training.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by as much as \$25,000 for UMB to conduct the study. UMB reports that it will likely cost less than \$25,000 to conduct the required study. MHEC and the State Board of Nursing report they can participate in the study using existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1293 (Delegate A. Kelly) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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