

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1430 (Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Health - State Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council
- Composition

This bill alters the composition of the State Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC).

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: The bill broadens representation on the council by replacing the position dedicated for a representative from Johns Hopkins University with a representative from an academic institution and modifying the expertise required of the individual to be studying the impact of environmental *exposures* on childhood *disease* (rather than environmental allergies on childhood asthma); (2) removes the requirement that the epidemiologist be an *environmental* epidemiologist; (3) removes the requirement that the two licensed health care providers with expertise in the field of children's health be *pediatric* health care providers; and (4) adds one representative from the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

CEHPAC was established in 2000 by Chapter 585. CEHPAC advises the Governor and the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. Among other things, the council is required to review and comment on existing and proposed regulations, recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards, and submit an annual report. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene coordinates with the Maryland Department of the Environment and other State agencies to provide staff for CEHPAC.

CEHPAC's mission is to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health and to recommend solutions to those hazards through interdisciplinary problem solving and coalition building. CEHPAC's goals, which were developed in 2001 and are reaffirmed annually, are to:

- ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards of the State protect children from environmental hazards;
- educate involved parties regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and the means to avoid those hazards; and
- enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland State Archives, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2014
mc/ljm

Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510