

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 13

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Aging)

Finance

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Advisory Committee

This departmental bill creates the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to provide the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman with policy, procedural, and problem-solving advice. This committee is largely the same as the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman stakeholder group that has been meeting since 2010. The bill defines the committee’s specific purposes, membership composition, appointment procedures, term limits, and restrictions on monetary compensation.

The bill terminates September 30, 2024.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Current Ombudsman Program staff administer the stakeholder group and will continue to work in that capacity to administer the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Advisory Committee. Additional expenditures associated with travel reimbursement can be absorbed within the agency’s existing budget.

Local Effect: Formalizing the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Advisory Committee does not materially affect local area agencies on aging.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Aging has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The committee consists of 21 members who are appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Secretary of Disabilities; the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.; the Maryland Disability Law Center, Inc.; the Maryland Association of Area Agencies of Aging; and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Committee members serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Secretary of Aging designates the chair of the committee. Committee members may not receive compensation, but they are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.

The committee must meet at least four times a year and annually report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of Aging, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and the General Assembly.

Current Law/Background: The Ombudsman Program currently staffs an Ombudsman Stakeholders Workgroup that was required by uncodified language in Chapter 155 of 2010. The workgroup is composed of interested organizations, agencies, and long-term care consumers. Although the workgroup was set to sunset in January 2013, it has continued to meet.

This bill creates the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Advisory Committee, which will meet until it sunsets on September 30, 2024. The bill also clarifies the various stakeholders' roles and ensures their ongoing participation in the Ombudsman Program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Department of Aging, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 7, 2014
ns/ljm

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Long-Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Committee

BILL NUMBER: SB 13

PREPARED BY: Department of Aging

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.