

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 505
Finance

(Senator Kelley)

Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports

This bill establishes the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports to identify policies, resources, and programs available for family caregivers; receive testimony on the needs of family caregivers; and compile an inventory of the resources available to family caregivers. By January 31, 2015, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014, and terminates June 30, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The additional workload and reimbursement associated with the task force can likely be handled with existing resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The 11-member task force includes 1 member of the Senate and 1 member of the House of Delegates. A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

Background: The preamble notes that 770,000 Marylanders are taking care of loved ones who are aging, having failing health, or are children and that almost all older adults

who need assistance with activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and communities. Almost three-fourths of older adults living in the community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help. Providing services and supports to older adults in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home care or adult day care, and older adults who receive cost-effective services in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance. The preamble concludes that, to successfully address the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, the State must develop methods to both encourage and support families to assist their aging relatives and recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce.

According to the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA), the number of older Marylanders is increasing. In 2000, 15% of the population was older than 60. This percentage is expected to increase to 25% in 2030.

State Expenditures: As the bill does not specify a staffing agency for the task force, the Department of Legislative Services assumes the three primary State agencies involved – the Department of Human Resources, MDoA, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – will share staffing duties. Each of these agencies should be able to handle staffing, providing reimbursement, and reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 935 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Department of Aging, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2014
ncs/ljm

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