

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**Revised**

Senate Bill 418

(Senator Middleton, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

**Developmental Disabilities Administration - Low Intensity Support Services -
Funding**

This bill lowers the minimum possible amount that the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) must establish as a cap for low-intensity support services (LISS) per qualifying individual per fiscal year from \$3,000 to \$2,000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill alters the amount of money that may be spent on each individual receiving funding from the LISS program, but it does not affect aggregate program spending. DDA advises that, although it anticipates an increase in applicants as a result of the bill, any increase in applications can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: DDA's LISS program is a statewide program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Program services help individuals with developmental disabilities improve their quality of life, remain in their own homes, and increase or maintain independence. "Low-intensity support services" include family support services designed to help families provide for the needs of a child with developmental disabilities living in the home. These services also include individual support services which are designed to assist eligible persons to develop to their maximum potential and stay in their community. Specifically, services include

counseling, day care, dietetic and nutritional services, medical equipment repair, housing adaptation and barrier removals, and transportation, among other services.

To be eligible for LISS, an individual must be a Maryland resident, have a documented developmental disability, and not currently receive DDA funding for full residential services.

Background: Although law specifies a *minimum cap* to be set at \$3,000, individuals receiving services can and often do receive services valued at less than the cap. For example, funding for LISS in fiscal 2014 was \$2.5 million in general funds, and the program served 2,144 individuals for an average of approximately \$1,166 per person. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2015 budget includes \$4.7 million in general funds for LISS. Funds are available to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is no waiting list.

State Expenditures: The bill does not require additional spending but may alter the program to serve more individuals. Currently, DDA must establish a cap of no less than \$3,000 of such services per individual per fiscal year. The bill lowers this amount to \$2,000. DDA currently has the cap set at the minimum possible amount of \$3,000. DDA indicates that, if the bill passes, it intends to set the annual cap at \$2,000, likely enabling the program to distribute LISS funds to significantly more individuals. The fiscal 2015 proposed funding would allow 2,350 individuals to be served at the new \$2,000 cap or 4,030 individuals to be served at the fiscal 2014 average of \$1,166 per person.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 556 (Delegate Hammen) - Health and Government Operations.

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

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