

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 275

(Delegate Queen, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Recommended Courses in Military Culture

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), to provide specified health occupations boards a list of recommended courses in military culture.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DHMH and MDVA can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) is required to provide nine specified health occupations boards a list of recommended courses in cultural and linguistic competency, health disparities, and health literacy. Each health occupations board must then (1) post the list on the board's website; (2) provide information about the recommended courses to health care professionals at the time of license renewal; and (3) advertise the availability of the recommended courses in newsletters and any other media published by the board.

Background: DHMH advises that the Maryland's Commitment to Veterans program within the department currently offers military cultural competency training throughout the

State in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and MDVA. MDVA further advises that it is aware of multiple online resources provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other organizations.

As of February 2017, OMHHD lists links to four programs on its website, addressing topics including (1) culturally and linguistically appropriate services; (2) cultural competency and health literacy; (3) national culturally and linguistically appropriate services standards; and (4) a policy framework regarding Maryland cultural, linguistic, and health literacy competency strategies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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