

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 694  
Finance

(Senator Feldman, *et al.*)

---

Assisted Living Education on Influenza

---

This bill requires an assisted living program to provide residents with specified educational material about the influenza virus by posting the educational material in each assisted living program facility by September 1 each year. Unless otherwise required by law, an assisted living program may not be required to pay for or provide an influenza virus vaccination. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

---

Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The educational material must include (1) the most recent influenza virus vaccination recommendations made by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; (2) the availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of immunization against influenza; (3) the causes and symptoms of influenza; and (4) how influenza is spread.

**Current Law:** With specified exceptions, a “related institution” (such as a nursing home but *not* an assisted living program) must immunize residents against influenza virus and pneumococcal disease. Each related institution must make available to all residents

educational and informational materials relating to both immunizations. Each related institution must conduct the required immunizations (1) in accordance with the recommendations established by ACIP that are in effect at the time the facility conducts the immunizations and (2) by December 1 of each year.

**Background:** ACIP comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States. The recommendations stand as public health guidance for the safe use of vaccines and related biological products.

ACIP's current [influenza virus recommendations for 2017-2018](#) recommend routine annual vaccination for all persons six months and older who do not have contraindications, with emphasis placed on vaccination of high-risk groups, including adults aged 50 and older, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and household contacts and caregivers of such individuals.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** Although designated as a cross file, HB 455 (Delegate Barron - Health and Government Operations) is not identical.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2018  
mag/jc

---

Analysis by: Nathan W. McCurdy

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