

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 839 (Delegates Carr and Stein)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health - State Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS

This bill establishes a State Advisory Council on PANDAS (pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections) and PANS (pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome). The advisory council must be staffed by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). By December 1 each year, the advisory council must submit a report on the advisory council’s recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. Members of the advisory council may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for advisory council members and staffing costs for MDH are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The advisory council must develop and update as necessary recommendations regarding (1) practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS; (2) mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and education regarding PANDAS and PANS among physicians, including pediatricians, school-based

health centers, and providers of mental health services; (3) outreach to educators and parents to increase awareness of PANDAS and PANS; and (4) the development of a network of volunteer experts on the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS to assist in the delivery of education and outreach.

The Secretary of Health (or the Secretary's designee) must serve as an *ex officio* member without voting privileges.

Current Law/Background: According to the [National Institute of Mental Health](#), PANDAS is a term used to describe a subset of children and adolescents who have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and/or tic disorders, and in whom symptoms worsen following infections such as strep throat and scarlet fever. PANS is a newer term used to describe the larger class of acute-onset OCD cases, and includes all cases of acute onset OCD, not just those associated with streptococcal infections.

Revised treatment guidelines for PANDAS/PANS were published in the [Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology](#) in July 2017.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/jc

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