

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 67

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee, *et al.*) (By Request - Departmental -
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services
Systems)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration

This emergency departmental bill authorizes a paramedic to administer influenza and hepatitis B immunizations and tuberculin skin testing to ambulance service personnel within the jurisdiction of the paramedic. A written agreement authorizing these services may be between an ambulance service medical director and the local health department (LHD) in which the services are performed. Services may be provided under the direction of the paramedic's ambulance service medical director. The bill also authorizes a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort conducted by the appropriate LHD or a hospital or health system in the State. **Authorization to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort terminates January 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not substantively change State activities or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not substantively change local activities or finances.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Bill Summary: Influenza and COVID-19 immunizations must be (1) provided under the direction of the emergency medical services (EMS) operational program medical director, ambulance service medical director, or other qualified physician and authorized by MIEMSS and (2) provided in accordance with a written agreement between the paramedic's EMS operational program or ambulance service and the LHD or a hospital or health system. A written agreement must include provisions for (1) the administration of a vaccine to an individual at least 18 years of age; (2) storage and inventory of medication; (3) distribution of appropriate vaccine information statements; (4) documentation of patient consent; (5) recognition of adverse effects; (6) referral and follow-up; and (7) appropriate documentation of vaccine administration.

Current Law: Subject to the rules, regulations, protocols, orders, and standards of the EMS Board, a paramedic may administer influenza and hepatitis B immunizations and tuberculosis skin testing, in a nonemergency environment, to public safety personnel within the jurisdiction of the paramedic. These services must be (1) authorized by a written agreement between the provider's jurisdictional EMS operational program medical director and the LHD; (2) under the direction of the jurisdictional EMS operational program medical director; and (3) approved by MIEMSS.

Background: The bill is intended to permit paramedics to assist LHDs and hospitals and health systems in vaccination initiatives targeted to address population health needs (including assisting with COVID-19 vaccination efforts), as well as to permit both public safety and ambulance service paramedics to administer vaccines and tuberculin skin testing to their own personnel through occupational health programs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1313 (Delegate Mangione) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
an/ljm

First Reader - January 12, 2021
Third Reader - February 3, 2021
Revised - Amendment(s) - February 3, 2021
Enrolled - April 30, 2021
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 30, 2021

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration

BILL NUMBER: SB 67

PREPARED BY: Patricia Gainer, JD, MPA, Deputy Director, MIEMSS

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

XXX WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

___ WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

No known economic impact.