

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 368

(Delegate Bagnall)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland

This bill establishes the Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) must provide staff for the task force. Members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget. The task force must submit an interim report by May 1, 2022, and a final report by December 1, 2022, to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$39,700 in FY 2022 and \$32,100 in FY 2023 for contractual support to staff the task force and complete the required reports. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	39,700	32,100	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$39,700)	(\$32,100)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must:

- analyze current access to dental services in the State, with a focus on the socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, age, and disability of residents as factors impacting access to dental services;
- identify areas of the State where a significant number of residents are not receiving oral health care services, distinguishing between pediatric and adult populations;
- identify barriers to receiving dental services in areas in need;
- analyze the specific impact of such barriers;
- assess options to eliminate such barriers, including the feasibility of establishing a program for dental therapy in the State; and
- make recommendations to increase access to dental services in the State.

Current Law: The Oral Health Safety Net Program, established under the Health-General Article, provides start-up funding to expand oral health capacity for underserved low-income and disabled individuals, including individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the Maryland Children’s Health Program. MDH’s Office of Oral Health conducts an annual evaluation of the program and reports specified information to the Governor and the General Assembly annually. Per §13-2504(b) of the Health-General Article, Medicaid, in conjunction with the office, must submit an annual oral health access report that includes information on Medicaid dental utilization and expenditures and actions taken by MDH and the office to increase access to dental services and overall oral health in the State. The most recent [report](#) was submitted on December 8, 2020.

State Expenditures: Previous estimates for similar legislation advised that MDH could handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources. However, due to the ongoing demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, DLS advises that MDH will likely need additional resources to fulfill the requirements of the bill. Thus, MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$39,738 in fiscal 2022, which accounts for the bill’s July 1, 2021 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time, contractual health policy analyst to staff the task force and complete the required reports. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>
Contractual Position	0.5	(0.5)
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$27,932	\$25,359
Operating Expenses	<u>11,806</u>	<u>6,716</u>
Total FY 2022 State Expenditures	\$39,738	\$32,075

In fiscal 2023, general fund expenditures increase by \$32,075, which reflects an ongoing salary, fringe benefits, and operating expenses through the anticipated termination of the contractual position on June 30, 2023.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 511 of 2020 passed in the Senate and received a hearing in the House Health and Governmental Operations Committee, but no further action was taken. SB 431 of 2019 received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 309, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken. In addition, similar bills were introduced in the 2018 session.

Designated Cross File: SB 100 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Health; Legislative Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 2021
rh/jc Third Reader - March 20, 2021
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