



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Rom 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1375 – Public School Students – Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kaiser and committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for HB 1375 – Public School Students – Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland.

HB 1375 would mandate vision screenings, and vision testing and eyeglasses when required, for public school students. HB 1375 would also establish the “Vision for Maryland Program” (Program) and would require the Department to establish a dedicated Health Specialist position and administer the Program. The Department must also develop a fee schedule and standards for the Program and develop guidelines for the Department to bill a student’s insurance provider and charge fees to parents/guardians, if applicable.

HB 1375 will increase the volume of school vision screenings, and may increase the number of eye exams, and eyeglasses reimbursed by Medicaid. The Department estimates the fiscal impact of the bill would be \$5.3 million TF (\$2.4 million GF, \$2.9 million FF) due to enhanced billing and hiring of a Health Policy Analyst (Grade 16) to fill the Health Specialist role.

The Department also notes that there would not be sufficient time to establish the Program and implement the data-related requirements by the bill’s effective date (July 1, 2020). There are also significant local health department infrastructure needs that would need to be addressed in order for local health departments to implement the requirements of the bill.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary