

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
(DLS Control No. 16-061)**

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**Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

The regulations implement provisions of Chapter 45 of 2015 (Senate Bill 641), which expanded the scope of the Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes Partnership (S.T.O.P.) Fund in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

**Regulations of COMAR Affected**

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration:

Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes Partnerships – (S.T.O.P.) Fund:

COMAR 10.47.06.02-.04

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**Legal Analysis**

**Background**

The Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes Partnership (S.T.O.P.) Fund provides grants to counties that submit proposals for substance abuse treatment services. The governing body of one or more counties (including Baltimore City) must submit a request for S.T.O.P. funding to the department in order to receive grant funding. The populations that are eligible for funding are defined in statute, and there are guidelines for evaluating a funding proposal. A county receiving a S.T.O.P. grant must provide a 50% match. However, the department is authorized to waive the 50% match requirement after considering (1) the financial hardship of the participating county; (2) prior contributions of funds for substance abuse treatment programs made by the participating county; or (3) other relevant considerations deemed appropriate by the department.

Chapter 45 of 2015 expanded the scope of the S.T.O.P. Fund to include “eligible functions” that may be funded under S.T.O.P.: transportation to and from treatment services; treatment, prevention, or coordination staff; data sharing services among counties and other appropriate treatment providers; education or outreach programs and materials; in-community emergency behavioral health services or crisis stabilization units; and behavioral health programs in schools.

Chapter 45 also added drug offenders under the supervision of the problem solving courts to the “eligible population” authorized to receive S.T.O.P. funding.

## **Summary of Regulations**

The regulations:

- add drug offenders under the supervision of the problem solving courts to the definition of “eligible population” for funding;
- require proposals for S.T.O.P. funding to include eligible functions that will be funded under the plan;
- authorize the department to specify in a request for proposals the types of treatment services that are eligible for funding awards; and
- authorize a participating jurisdiction to use S.T.O.P. funding to continue or expand funding for eligible functions if the participating jurisdiction began spending funds on eligible functions after October 1, 2010.

## **Legal Issues**

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

## **Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The department cites §§ 8-6C-01 through 8-6C-04 of the Health – General Article as statutory authority for the regulations. As described above, these sections authorize the S.T.O.P. Fund in the department.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

## **Fiscal Analysis**

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

## **Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact**

The regulations implement provisions of Chapter 45 of 2015 (Senate Bill 641), which expanded the scope of the Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes Partnership (S.T.O.P.) Fund in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Any fiscal impact has already been assumed under the fiscal and policy note for Senate Bill 641 of 2015.

## **Impact on Budget**

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

## **Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Contact Information**

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