

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 669 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Appropriations

Referred to Budget and Taxation

**Montgomery County - Transfer of Local Health Department and Local Department
of Social Services to Montgomery County Government**
MC 607-96

This enrolled bill transfers the duties of the local health department and the local department of social services in Montgomery County to the Montgomery County government. It abolishes the Montgomery County Department of Social Services and requires the Department of Human Resources to enter into a grant agreement with the Montgomery County government to reimburse Montgomery County for the cost of administering the State social services programs. The administration of State programs by Montgomery County government will continue to be governed by State regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is cost neutral to both the State and Montgomery County.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: State funds previously awarded to Montgomery County through the targeted local health services funding grant and social service funds will continue to be awarded to the county.

All employees of the Montgomery County Health Department are currently county employees, with the exception of the health officer, who is a State employee. The bill does not transfer the county health officer to the status of county employee. Montgomery County is expected to receive approximately \$3 million in State targeted local health services general funds in fiscal 1997.

The Montgomery County Department of Social Services staff are currently State employees and are paid by the Department of Human Resources. Under the proposed bill, the Department of Social Services is abolished and the staff become Montgomery County employees. The county will administer social service programs (such as income maintenance, child welfare service, adult service and child care service) by grant agreement with the State Department of Human Resources. That grant agreement will cover administration, salary, overhead, general liability coverage, workers' compensation, and employee benefit costs. Montgomery County is expected to receive a total of \$14.2 million in fiscal 1997 from the Department of Human Resources for staffing and operating costs to carry out social services program administration; that amount includes funds for 330 positions.

Local Expenditures: None. Since Montgomery County already supplements the salaries of State social service employees working in the Montgomery County Department of Social Services, local expenditures would not increase when the employees are transferred to the county's personnel system.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Montgomery County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 1996
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