

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 929 (Delegate Morgan)  
Environmental Matters

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**Community Residential Services Programs - Standards and Requirements**

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This bill establishes requirements and standards that persons operating developmental disabilities and mental health community residential services programs must satisfy to maintain a license or certificate of approval. It requires community residential services programs to develop certain policies and procedures that assure adequate staff capability, program quality, and protection of residents' rights. A program that fails to satisfy these requirements is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 for each violation as set by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) or the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate. DDA and MHA expenditures could increase to the extent that community service providers must respond to additional standards and pass any resulting costs on to the State. Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision.

**Local Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate amount, depending on the magnitude of any administrative penalties imposed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Any such increase is assumed to be minimal.

**State Expenditures:** Although most of the bill's requirements are already incorporated into regulation, DDA and MHA expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount to the extent that community service providers must respond to additional standards. Since DDA and MHA provide grants to community providers, any increases incurred by providers could be passed on to DDA and MHA. For example, the bill requires an annual physical for all community residential services staff that is not currently required under regulation. In addition, the bill's developmental disabilities requirements apply to community-based residential programs in general, while regulations for community residential services sometimes specify different requirements for group homes and alternative living units. As a result, provider expenditures could increase to the extent that they must respond to additional standards.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Mental Hygiene Administration, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Licensing and Certification); Office on Aging; Department of Human Resources; Maryland Association of Community Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Inc.; Department of Fiscal Services

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