

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 305 (Senator Dorman)

Finance

**Developmental Disabilities Administration - Client Fatalities - Reporting
Requirements**

This bill requires the administrative head of a service or program operated or funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to report client fatalities immediately to the sheriff, police, or chief law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction in which the death occurs. By the next working day, client fatalities are to be reported to the DDA director, the local health officer, and the designated State protection and advocacy system. The bill specifies the information to be included in the report. It requires a law enforcement officer to notify a medical examiner of a fatality if the death occurred by violence, suicide, casualty, or in a sudden, suspicious, or unusual manner and requires the medical examiner, if necessary, to investigate the fatality.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Client fatalities in DDA operated or funded services or programs are currently reported to the Licensing and Certification Administration (LCA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. LCA investigates all deaths except instances in which the cause of death is obvious. The Chief Medical Examiner frequently conducts an autopsy and shares the results with DDA. DDA currently notifies the Director of DDA and the State protection and advocacy system of all client fatalities. It notifies law enforcement agencies of fatalities by violence, suicide, casualty, or any unexpected, suspicious, or unusual fatalities.

Additional Comments: The bill's language is similar to existing law that applies to reports of client deaths in the Mental Hygiene Law subtitle of the Health-General Article.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Developmental Disabilities Administration, Licensing and Certification Administration); Department of State Police; Baltimore City; Charles and Prince George's counties

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 1998
tlw Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 1998

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