

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 656 (Senator Hollinger)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Courts - Health Care Advisory Committees - Appointment**

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This bill authorizes any court with jurisdiction to decide health care issues for an adult or a child to appoint a health care advisory committee for the purpose of providing the court with recommendations in proceedings involving life-sustaining medical treatment or other medical issues. The membership of a health care advisory committee shall reflect appropriate diversity among health care and other professionals and lay members, and include individuals with special expertise in issues concerning the care of children with life-threatening illnesses in cases presenting those issues. The written recommendation of a health care advisory committee may be admitted into evidence in any proceeding in which: (1) the provision of health care is at issue; and (2) the court has sought the committee's recommendation concerning the provision of health care.

The Court of Appeals may, by rule, provide for the manner of appointment and term of service of members of a health care advisory committee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in expenditures. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Indeterminate.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** Because the bill is permissive in nature, it is unknown whether and to what extent courts would form health care advisory committees. It is also unknown whether, to what extent, and from what source of funds members of health care advisory committees would be compensated for their services and/or expenses. For any health care advisory committees that are formed to assist the District Court, the State could incur associated expenses.

**Local Expenditures:** For any health care advisory committees that are formed to assist circuit courts, local governments could incur associated expenses in the same manner as the State (see above).

**Small Business Effect:** Small businesses could be affected by the bill to the extent that members of small businesses serve on health care advisory committees.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 1998

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Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710