

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1077 (Delegate Malone)

Economic Matters

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**Workplace Safety and Health Research Fund**

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This bill establishes a Workplace Safety and Health Research Fund for the purpose of providing grants or loans to persons for research on occupational safety and health and to improve occupational safety and health for workers. The fund is a special nonlapsing fund which would be administered by the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation Division of Labor and Industry (DLLR). Money may not be expended by the fund until the division has adopted regulations to carry out the bill's provisions. The fund may receive money or other contributions from any source, and administration costs may be paid from the fund.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in State expenditures to capitalize the fund. General fund expenditures could increase by \$5,350 in order for the Division of Labor and Industry to promulgate regulations to carry out the bill's requirements.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal effect.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** The bill requires the Division of Labor and Industry to adopt regulations and administer the fund. The bill specifies that the fund may receive money or other contributions from any source and that the cost of administration may be paid from the fund. However, no funds could be expended until the division adopts new regulations to carry out the law. The division estimates that it will cost \$5,350 to develop, draft, and adopt regulations with the assistance of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Advisory

Board.

The Workplace Safety and Health Research Fund is a special nonlapsing fund. The amount of funds generated and expended will depend on the regulations promulgated by the division. The bill gives the division broad discretion to receive money from any source and to determine the qualifications for obtaining a loan or grant from the fund. It is assumed that the fund would consist of money appropriated by the State and money donated by private interests. Depending on the size of the special fund, DLLR advises that administrative costs would range from 10 to 25% of the total fund. As a point of reference, the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services administers a similar fund (The Safety, Education, and Training Grants Fund) which contains \$850,000 and is disbursed to 11 various colleges, unions, and employer groups.

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**Information Source:** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (Division of Labor and Industry)

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 1998

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