

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1408 (Delegate Bozman)

Economic Matters

Health Carriers - Drug Substitution - Notification

This bill provides that an insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or HMO (carrier) that requires a pharmacist to substitute one drug for another for the same therapeutic use must notify the person for whom the drug is prescribed about the substitution. If the person for whom the drug is prescribed is not able to be informed of the substitution due to the person's physical or mental condition, the notification must be given to an individual who has the authority to consent to medical care for the person in question. The bill exempts managed care organizations from the above notification. The Insurance Commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations to carry out the bill's requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources. The State Employee Health Benefit Plan currently requires a pharmacist to inform a subscriber in the event of a substitution.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Insurance Administration, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

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