

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 2 (Senator Frosh. *et al.*)

Finance

Public Health - Task Force on the Quality of Health Care

This joint resolution requests the Governor to establish an 18-member Task Force on the Quality of Health Care in Maryland to assess the quality of health care in Maryland and make recommendations for improvements. The task force is to report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly by September 1, 2001. Staff and administrative expenses of the task force are to be provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Compliance with this resolution could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Because a joint resolution is an expression of legislative intent only, compliance is not required and expenditures are not directly affected. The Department of Legislative Services believes that the resolution's staffing requirements could be handled with DHMH's existing budgeted resources. However, DHMH advises that general fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$63,968 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay and assumes that the task force begins its work in fiscal 2000. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring 2 positions (1 program administrator, 1 secretary) to staff the task force due to the department's inability to absorb the additional tasks required by the bill. It includes salaries and fringe benefits (\$52,473), one-time start-up costs (\$9,560), travel

and per diem (\$1,215), and ongoing operating expenses (\$720).

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration, Medical Care Programs Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 1999

lnc/jr

Analysis by: Sue Friedlander

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510