

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 65 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Health and Mental Hygiene)

Environmental Matters

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**Mental Hygiene - Private Therapeutic Group Homes**

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This departmental bill repeals the following requirements regarding therapeutic group homes: (1) the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) must supervise the care provided in a therapeutic group home; (2) an applicant for placement of a child in a private therapeutic group home must submit an application to MHA; (3) MHA or a county health department must approve the application; and (4) MHA must submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on a plan for children in private therapeutic group homes and evaluate annually each private therapeutic group home.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies existing procedure.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** Therapeutic group homes were created as an alternative to residential treatment centers. In 1984, when the statute regarding regulation of therapeutic group homes was enacted, therapeutic group homes were not otherwise regulated or licensed by the State. Today, therapeutic group homes are subject to licensure and regulation by the department's

Licensing and Certification Administration.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 1999

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