

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 770 (Delegate Bobo. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Health Care Providers - Do Not Resuscitate Orders - Outpatients

This bill authorizes a health care provider, other than certified or licensed emergency medical personnel, to provide, withhold, or withdraw treatment in accordance with an emergency medical services “do not resuscitate” (DNR) order if the health care provider sees either the order or a valid, legible, and patient-identifying emergency medical services DNR order in bracelet form.

The bill requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance, and other interested persons to study the following: (1) whether the emergency medical services DNR order form should be simplified; (2) the circumstances, if any, where a DNR order should guide the actions of non-health care workers authorized to operate an automated external defibrillator; (3) whether a program should be established and an order form developed addressing resuscitation, alternatives to resuscitation, and life-sustaining procedures in a manner comparable to that used in Oregon known as the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST); and (4) if the program and order form described in (3) above were established, which organization would be the most appropriate to operate it, identify its resource needs, and identify the means for evaluating its effectiveness. The Attorney General is to report the study’s findings to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee of the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expanding authorization relating to treatment in accordance with an emergency medical services DNR order to include a health care provider would not substantively affect State finances or operations. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General could consult with the various agencies, conduct the study, and report the findings as required by this bill with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Certified or licensed emergency medical personnel are directed by protocol to follow emergency medical services DNR orders pertaining to adult patients in the outpatient setting. This protocol is established by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in conjunction with the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance. Health care providers, other than certified or licensed emergency medical personnel, are not authorized to provide, withhold, or withdraw treatment in accordance with protocol for emergency medical services DNR orders.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of the Attorney General, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2000

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