

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 151 (Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee)  
(Departmental - Human Resources)

Budget and Taxation

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**Attendant Care Program - Administrative Costs**

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This departmental bill repeals restrictions on the use of funds for administrative costs for the Department of Human Resources' (DHR) Attendant Care Program. DHR retains the option to either administer the Attendant Care Program directly or to enter into a contract with a private organization for the program's administration.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not substantively affect State activities and funding levels for the Attendant Care Program would not change.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Funds for the Attendant Care Program may not be used for administrative costs if the program is administered by DHR. Funds can be used for 'reasonable' administrative costs, negotiated and approved by the DHR Attendant Care Program Director, when the program is administered by a contracted private organization.

**Background:** The Attendant Care Program is within DHR's Office of Adult Services,

providing support for the cost of attendant care for persons 18 to 64 years of age who have chronic or severe permanent physical disabilities. The service increases the ability of its clients to remain functional, self-sufficient, and avoid nursing home placement through assistance with bathing, clothing, feeding, and transportation. Chapter 165 of 1992 restricted DHR from using Attendant Care Program funds for administrative costs if the Attendant Care Program was administered and operated by DHR. This legislation retains DHR's option to contract with a private organization for the provision of attendant care services and deletes the restrictive language relating to administrative costs associated with the program.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Attendant Care Program's proposed fiscal 2001 budget includes \$626,000 in general funds. This bill will expand the use of these funds to cover administrative costs associated with the operation of the program. DHR has administered the program since 1992 and has handled administrative costs with existing resources and staff. It is anticipated that allowing for the administrative costs to be budgeted directly from the appropriation for the program will not reduce the level of attendant care services provided.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources (Community Services Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2000  
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