

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 632 (Delegate Goldwater. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Maryland Family Caregiver Support Act

This bill establishes the Family Caregiver Support Program within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The program’s purpose is to develop, coordinate, and encourage access to family caregiver support for families of individuals with special needs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$179,000 in FY 2001. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	179,000	216,700	225,600	234,900	244,700
Net Effect	(\$179,000)	(\$216,700)	(\$225,600)	(\$234,900)	(\$244,700)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Minimal. Local government agencies could realize expenditure decreases in jurisdictions with an established program and may benefit from additional funding.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill creates the Family Caregiver Support Program and defines “family caregiver support services” and “special needs.” Family caregiver support services means the provision of short-term relief or supportive services to primary caregivers of persons with special needs. A special needs individual is defined as one with needs related to: (1)

alzheimer's disease and related disorders; (2) developmental disabilities; (3) physical disabilities; (4) chronic illness; (5) mental and emotional conditions requiring supervision; (6) situations with a high risk of abuse or neglect; and (7) other conditions as established by DHMH by regulation.

The Family Caregiver Support Program in DHMH will:

- develop a statewide registry of family caregiver support services, and develop and distribute family caregiver support information;
- provide support for policy and development including data collection and outcome measures;
- coordinate family caregiver support services between various State and local agencies and private entities;
- ensure statewide access to family caregiver support programs; and
- coordinate the establishment of, provide technical assistance to, and monitor and evaluate community family caregiver support programs.

DHMH must establish eight community programs by October 1, 2002; 16 by October 1, 2004; and a program in every county by October 1, 2006. Each local community program will have an advisory panel of family members, providers, and community representatives, and may give funds to non-profits, for-profits, or public agencies to provide the local services.

DHMH may use funds budgeted for the program for: one-time start-up costs; minimal administrative costs; costs for program components such as referral services and provider development and training; and grants to community programs to provide services. The bill creates two positions within DHMH for the program: a program administrator and an administrative assistant.

Current Law: None applicable.

State Fiscal Effect: General funds could increase by an estimated \$178,979, reflecting the bill's October 1, 2000, effective date. DHMH advises that in addition to the two positions created in the bill, two additional positions would be needed to administer the program: a quality assurance coordinator to monitor and evaluate the program, review proposals, and ensure compliance with DHMH criteria; and a training coordinator to provide technical assistance to and coordinate training for program participants. The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses for all four positions as follows.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$128,962
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One-time Contractual Services	18,900
Other Operating Expenses	31,117
Total FY 2001 State Expenditures	\$178,979

Of the \$178,979 in fiscal 2001, approximately \$61,902 is for the two positions (one program administrator and one administrative assistant) authorized in the bill. Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increase and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: Because public agencies can be the recipients of funds through the community programs, there could be an impact on local government revenues and expenditures for caregiver support programs. Prince George’s County advises that providing the equipment, support, and programming necessary for people to stay at home in the community instead of using institutionalized long-term care is far less costly. Provisions would need to be made for staffing, information dissemination, access assistance, counseling, respite care, and advocacy.

Montgomery County advises that there is a caregiver program in place for developmentally disabled persons, and that the county is currently developing a similar program for the chronically mentally ill. It is estimated that four contracts would be needed to supply these services at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Mental Hygiene Administration), Department of Human Resources, Prince George’s County , Montgomery County, Allegany County, Department of Legislative Services

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