

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 23 (Delegate Fulton)

Environmental Matters

Office of Planning - Annual Survey and Map of Group Homes

This bill addresses the administration of a survey and the development of a color-coded map relating to the location of “group homes” in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential increase in general fund expenditures in the event that a group home owned or operated by the State is relocated as a result of the bill. The survey and map could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill directs the Office of Planning to annually survey the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to gather information about the location of group homes in the State.

A “group home” is defined as a residential, treatment, or rehabilitation facility that: (1) is licensed, regulated, or managed by DHMH, MHCC, DPSCS, or DJJ; (2) is located in a neighborhood zoned for residential use; and (3) houses three or more residents who are not owners or lessees of the home and are not related by blood or marriage. The term includes any of the following facilities: (1) an assisted living facility; (2) a residential facility for the developmentally disabled; (3) a residential treatment center or other drug treatment facility;

(4) a juvenile justice group home; (5) a home for runaway youth; and (6) a community adult rehabilitation center.

The bill requires that for each group home, the survey shall determine: (1) the county in which the group home is located; (2) the municipal corporation in which the group home is located, if applicable; (3) the purpose of the group home; (4) the average number of residents in the group home for the most recent calendar year; (5) the maximum number of residents in the group home for the most recent calendar year; and (6) the location of the nearest group home that serves the same purpose for the same population of potential residents.

The bill requires the Office of Planning to: (1) use information it has otherwise gathered to determine the number and location of the various categories of group homes within the State; (2) use information collected from the survey to coordinate the preparation of a color-coded map to illustrate the location of the different categories of group homes within the State; and (3) submit the map and information to the General Assembly on or before December 31 of each calendar year. The bill also directs the General Assembly, the State, and local jurisdictions to use the map and information to ensure that group homes are not located in a manner that unduly interferes with the use and enjoyment of residential property or unreasonably threatens the health and safety of the residents in the State.

Current Law: The Office of Planning is not required to develop a map or gather information related to the location of group homes in the State. Group homes are licensed, managed, or regulated by DHMH, DJJ, and the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

Background: DHMH has identified 2,700 assisted living programs and approximately 1,850 licensed homes for the developmentally disabled that would be considered group homes as defined by the bill. There are also an unknown number of additional facilities, including substance abuse centers and community mental health centers. DJJ reports that in addition to seven State-owned and operated juvenile justice facilities, there are three State-owned and contractor-operated facilities and 28 licensed group homes that would fall under the bill's definition of group homes. Although DHR also licenses facilities that could be considered group homes, the bill's definition does not specifically include those facilities. Operations of group homes licensed by DJJ, DHMH, and DHR total approximately \$500 million annually.

State Fiscal Effect: Expenditures to meet the bill's provisions related to the development of the map could be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. The State would be required to use the map and information to ensure that group homes are not located in a manner that unduly interferes with the use and enjoyment of residential property or unreasonably threatens the health and safety of residents in the State. In the event that the use of the map and information results in the relocation of any existing group homes owned or operated by

the State, the bill could result in an increase in expenditures. However, because any relocation of existing facilities is speculative, any fiscal impact on the State cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Small Business Effect: Several group homes are owned and/or operated by small businesses. In the event that any existing facilities are required to be relocated as a result of the bill, those entities could incur significant costs. However, because any relocation of existing facilities is speculative, an estimate of the impact on small business cannot be made at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Office of Planning, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Maryland Health Care Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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