

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
 Revised

House Bill 313 (Delegate Hubbard. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**

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This bill establishes an 18-member Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council to identify environmental hazards that may affect children’s health and to recommend solutions to those hazards. The bill describes the composition, terms, and duties of the advisory council and requires State agencies to submit specified proposed regulations to the advisory council.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditure increase of \$187,500 in FY 2001 and \$62,500 in FY 2002 to employ a consultant to conduct an analysis of the current state organizational structure regarding children’s environmental health and protection.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	187,500	62,500	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$187,500)	(\$62,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** The bill would not directly affect local governments. However, should any recommendations of the advisory council lead to the imposition of new requirements, local jurisdictions could be affected. Any costs resulting from future recommendations cannot be predicted at this time and would not be a direct result of the bill.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must coordinate with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and other State agencies to provide staffing for the advisory council. The advisory council may employ consultants subject to the State budget and may contract for an analysis of the current State organizational structure regarding children's environmental health and protection. The advisory council must:

- submit a proposed work plan, including required funding resources, for implementing the bill to the Governor and the General Assembly within six months of the effective date of the bill;
- review and comment on existing rules, regulations, and standards to ensure that they adequately protect children's health with respect to environmental hazards;
- review, comment, and make recommendations on proposed regulations submitted pursuant to the bill and otherwise;
- gather and disseminate information to the public on how to reduce, treat, and eliminate exposures;
- recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards;
- create and promote education programs for parents, guardians, and care givers; and
- provide input to the General Assembly and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2001 and each December 1 thereafter.

The bill requires State agencies to submit specified proposed regulations to the advisory council at least 15 days before they are submitted to the *Maryland Register*. The bill also provides that one member of the advisory council be appointed to the Air Quality Control Advisory Council in MDE.

**Current Law:** No such advisory council exists.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$187,500 in fiscal 2001 and \$62,500 in fiscal 2002 to employ a consultant to conduct an analysis of the current State organizational structure regarding children's environmental health and protection. Any compensation or expense reimbursements for council members and staffing costs for DHMH and MDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Human Resources, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2000  
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