

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 433 (Delegate Goldwater, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Governor's Wellmobile Program

This bill establishes the Governor's Wellmobile Program within the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$2.3 million in FY 2001. Future year expenditures reflect ongoing personnel and operating costs. Special fund revenues and expenditures may increase beginning in FY 2002. Additional audits conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

| (in millions) | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| SF Revenues | \$0.0 | - | - | - | - |
| SF Expenditures | \$0.0 | - | - | - | - |
| GF Expenditures | \$2.3 | \$1.5 | \$1.6 | \$1.7 | \$1.8 |
| Net Effect | (\$2.3) | (\$1.5) | (\$1.6) | (\$1.7) | (\$1.8) |

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Wellmobile Program will deliver primary and preventive health care services to geographically under-served communities and uninsured individuals throughout Maryland. The bill also establishes a nine-member advisory board for the program that will develop various funding mechanisms and partnerships with health entities to facilitate the provision of primary and preventive health care services for the program.

The bill provides for board member term limits and requires the board to submit a report, before September 1 of each year, to the Governor and the General Assembly detailing the operation and management of the program.

Current Law: There is no statutory basis for the Governor's Wellmobile Program.

Background: The Governor's Wellmobile Program was established in 1994. The program provides direct health services for families in medically under-served communities that have poor health status indicators. Currently, two Wellmobiles deliver services to Marylanders in Prince George's, Montgomery, Dorchester, Worcester, and Baltimore counties. The program has not been funded by the State since fiscal 1999. Funds had been appropriated to the Community Public Health Administration (CPHA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The University of Maryland School of Nursing is administering the Wellmobile program, funded through various private grants.

State Revenues: The bill requires the Wellmobile board to develop other funding mechanisms, including private and public donations. The School of Nursing estimates that special fund revenues could increase by as much as \$1.3 million in fiscal 2002 as a result of the board's fund-raising initiatives. Any additional special fund revenues would be used to expand and support the Wellmobile program.

State Expenditures:

Wellmobile Program. General fund expenditures for the School of Nursing will increase by \$2.3 million in fiscal 2001, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of 19 positions to manage and operate the Wellmobile program as well as the purchase of five new Wellmobiles.

These positions include six Wellmobile nurse practitioners, six drivers, six nurse case managers, and one Wellmobile manager. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries and Fringe Benefits | \$700,995 |
| Wellmobile Purchases | 1,000,000 |
| Other Operating Expenses | <u>591,560</u> |
| Total FY 2001 Expenditures | \$2,292,555 |

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The bill is silent regarding expense reimbursements for the Wellmobile board and staffing for the board. Any such costs, however, are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the existing resources of the governmental entities represented on the board.

Office of Legislative Audits. The Office of Legislative Audits generally conducts full fiscal audits on governmental agencies once every two years. The bill requires an annual audit on the Wellmobile program instead of the typical two-year cycle. If Legislative Audits conducted the audit on a biennial basis, agency expenses would be approximately \$6,700 annually. Under the bill's requirements, agency expenses would be approximately \$20,000 annually. These costs can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 802 (Senator Dorman) - Finance.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 29, 2000
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Analysis by: Susan D. John

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510