

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 923 (Delegate Flanagan)  
Economic Matters

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**Maryland Health Care Foundation - Medical Malpractice Insurance for Retired  
Volunteer Physicians Program**

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This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Foundation to establish a program to purchase and maintain medical malpractice insurance for retired physicians who: (1) are licensed to practice medicine in Maryland; (2) provide health care services at a clinic that is owned or operated by a charitable organization; (3) limit their scope of practice at the clinic to primary care; (4) provide health care services at the clinic voluntarily and without compensation; and (5) meet any other requirements the foundation may establish.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements would not directly affect governmental finances and operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There is no statutory provision to provide medical malpractice insurance to retired physicians who provide volunteer services.

**Background:** The cost of medical malpractice insurance can vary widely, depending upon the physician's type of practice. Based on a Maryland survey, annual costs range from \$4,032 for a family practice with no surgery to \$79,850 for an OB/GYN practice.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Maryland Health Care Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to promote public awareness of the need to provide more timely and cost-effective care for Marylanders without health insurance and to receive moneys that can be used to provide financial support to programs that expand access to health care services for uninsured Marylanders. The foundation does not generally receive State funds; however, the proposed fiscal 2001 budget provides it with \$1.5 million from the Cigarette Restitution Fund. The Health Care Foundation is not required to use these funds for any particular purpose.

The Health Care Foundation did not provide any information on how much it would cost the foundation to fulfill the bill's requirements.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Insurance Administration, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2000  
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