

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 653 (Senator Collins)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Institutions of Higher Education - Students - Vaccination for Meningococcal Disease

This bill requires an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education who resides in on-campus student housing to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. An individual is exempt from the vaccination requirement if the individual, or the individual's parent or guardian, in the case of a minor, signs a waiver after having been provided with detailed information about the disease and the vaccine by the institution. The bill may not be construed to require any institution of higher education to provide or pay for vaccinations.

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), is required to adopt regulations to implement the bill.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not significantly impact State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: College students are not statutorily required to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

Background: The University System of Maryland (USM) currently requires students to be vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. Non-USM institutions have their own vaccination policies. Some campuses currently offer meningococcal vaccinations to students and/or recommend that students receive meningococcal vaccinations. The average cost of a vaccination for meningococcal disease is approximately \$65.

State Fiscal Effect: This analysis assumes that students would pay for their own vaccinations.

USM, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Morgan State University, which compose the State's public institutions of higher education, advise that the bill would not have a significant fiscal impact. Although the bill would require these institutions to alter various health forms and procedures, it is expected that the changes could be made using existing budgeted resources.

The Maryland Independent College and University Association advises that some of its member institutions would incur costs of between \$3,000 and \$7,200 to implement and administer the requirements of the bill, including items such as the development and production of educational materials and personnel expenses for student follow-up. Some non-public institutions could meet the bill's requirements using existing resources, however. Non-public institutions of higher education receive State funding pursuant to the Joseph A. Sellinger formula. The proposed fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$41.6 million in general funds for aid to non-public institutions.

DHMH and MHEC could develop regulations using existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 227 (Delegate Rosso, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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