

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

Senate Bill 554 (Senator Hollinger. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Disease Prevention - Reporting Hepatitis C

This bill adds viral hepatitis type C to the list of reportable diseases which must be reported to the county health officer by the director of a medical laboratory within 48 hours after the examination of a specimen from a human body shows evidence of the disease.

The bill's effective date is July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$462,100 beginning in FY 2002 to fund a contract which would support eight nurse positions for local health departments. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	0	462,100	424,200	444,600	465,900
Net Effect	\$0	(\$462,100)	(\$424,200)	(\$444,600)	(\$465,900)

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

Local Effect: Revenues and expenditures increase by approximately \$462,100 beginning in FY 2002 pursuant to contracts with the Community and Public Health Administration which would support eight nurse positions for local health departments.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The list of 20 reportable diseases includes hepatitis A and B, meningitis, typhoid, HIV, Lyme disease, and rocky mountain spotted fever, among others.

Background: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which collects national data on the incidence of hepatitis C, has determined hepatitis C to be of growing concern. An estimated 3,528 cases of hepatitis C are discovered annually in Maryland. Hepatitis C presents a complicated problem, in part because tests cannot differentiate between an old, existing case and a new, or acute case of the disease.

State Fiscal Effect: COMAR requires local health departments to investigate all cases of reportable disease. It is assumed that the bill would require the Community and Public Health Administration to provide grant funds to local health departments to investigate cases of hepatitis C. It is estimated that each case of hepatitis C would require four hours of a nurse's time for contacting physicians regarding positive tests and treatment plans, interviewing patients and providing information and assistance, and performing other investigatory work.

The fiscal 2002 grant amount is estimated at \$462,115. This estimate reflects the costs of eight community health nurse positions for the local jurisdictions, distributed as follows:

- one full-time equivalent (FTE) each for the four largest jurisdictions: Baltimore City and Baltimore, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties;
- one FTE for the Eastern Shore region;
- one-half FTE each for Howard, Frederick, Harford, and Anne Arundel counties; and
- one-half FTE each for the Western region (Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties), and the Southern Maryland region (Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties).

The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries	\$404,787
One-time Equipment Costs	52,217
Other Operating Expenses	<u>5,111</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$462,115

Future year grant amounts reflect inflation.

Local Fiscal Effect: Funding provided by the State would increase revenues and expenditures as indicated above.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 845 (Delegate D. Davis) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2000
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