

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 846 (Delegate Goldwater. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Related Institutions - Immunizations - Influenza Virus and Pneumococcal Disease**

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This bill requires each related institution, such as a nursing home, to immunize residents against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease. The institutions must also immunize employees against the influenza virus. The institution must obtain written consent from the residents and employees before an immunization is administered. A resident or employee is not required to receive either immunization if: (1) the vaccine is medically contraindicated for the individual; (2) the vaccine is against the individual's religious beliefs; or (3) after being fully-informed by the institution of the health risks associated with not receiving the vaccine, the individual refuses the vaccine.

The institution must: (1) maintain records on annual immunizations; (2) provide upon request informational materials on immunization to residents and employees; and (3) notify each prospective resident or employee of the immunization requirements.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. These immunizations are already offered in Department of Health and Mental Hygiene related institutions. Any additional vaccinations provided could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Expenditures for local related institutions that do not currently require these immunizations could increase. Any increase is expected to be negligible.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. Related institutions that are small businesses may incur additional costs for immunizing all patients and employees. Any increase is expected to be negligible.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A related institution is defined as an institution that provides overnight care for two or more unrelated people who are dependent on the institution for nursing care. Institutions are not required to immunize patients or employees against influenza and pneumonia, although many voluntarily offer them. A related institution does not include a nursing facility that is operated only by or for adherents of a bona fide church or religious organization.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Developmental Disabilities Administration, Mental Hygiene Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2000  
mld/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 2000

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