

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 108 (Delegate Morhaim)

Environmental Matters

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**Patient Care Advisory Committees - Consultation and Evidentiary Use of Advice**

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This bill provides that in the case of a child with a life-threatening illness, each Patient Care Advisory Committee must consult a medical professional familiar with pediatric end-of-life care if a medical professional with this expertise is not already a member of the committee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Each hospital and each related institution is required to establish a Patient Care Advisory Committee. Each committee consists of a minimum of four members, including a physician and registered nurse, neither of which have been directly involved with the care of the patient in question. The four required members must also include a social worker and a chief executive officer or designee from each hospital and each related institution represented on that advisory committee. Committees may also include community representatives, ethical advisors, or clergy. Each advisory committee is to consult with all members of the patient's treatment team, the patient, and the patient's family in making good-faith efforts to give advice concerning the medical options available to an individual with a life-threatening condition. The proceedings and deliberations of each committee are confidential and must be made part of the patient's medical record. Committee members are

not liable for any advice given in good faith.

**Background:** Patient Care Advisory Committees were established by Chapter 749 of 1986 to address the rapid development of medical technology and to assist in careful decision making with respect to medical treatment and care.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 100 (Senator Hollinger) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 2000  
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2000

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