

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 809 (Senator Lawlah)

Finance

**African-American Male Oral Cancer Initiative**

This bill requires the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish an African-American Male Oral Cancer Initiative. Through the initiative, the Office of Oral Health, in consultation with dental health providers, must investigate the incidence of oral cancer in African-American men; identify associated risk factors; develop educational strategies for prevention and risk reduction; expand medical coverage and accessibility of oral cancer screening and early detection methods; increase access to treatment; and participate in activities to reduce the incidence and impact of oral cancer among African-American men. The bill requires DHMH to obtain funding for the initiative from the Cigarette Restitution Fund.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures from the Cigarette Restitution Fund increase by \$499,100 in FY 2001. Future year estimates reflect annualization and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditures	499,100	668,500	676,900	685,600	694,400
Net Effect	(\$499,100)	(\$668,500)	(\$676,900)	(\$685,600)	(\$694,400)

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The study and prevention of oral cancer in the African-American male population is not addressed.

**Background:** Research data from 1973 to 1992 was presented to the Governor's Task Force to Conquer Cancer which indicated the following: (1) the incidence of oral cancer in African-Americans has increased 21.1% in the United States as opposed to an 8.3% increase in whites; (2) the mortality rate from oral cancer among the general population has decreased, while the mortality rate among African-American males has increased by 10.9%; (3) the mortality rate among African-American males in Maryland is 75% higher than among African-Americans in the United States as a whole; (4) early detection of oral cancer is associated with increased survival rates; and (5) tobacco use is implicated in 75% of all oral cancer cases in the United States.

The Cigarette Restitution Act of 1999 outlined nine legislative spending priorities for the Cigarette Restitution Fund addressing health- and tobacco-related issues. While the statute mandates that at least 50% of the spending should be focused on the nine priority areas, the Governor has considerable latitude in constructing a budget proposal for the use of the funds.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Special fund expenditures increase by approximately \$499,100 in fiscal 2001 based on the following facts and assumptions:

- the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date;
- a program administrator I is needed for program oversight;
- in conjunction with the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, development and implementation of an oral cancer educational program (\$250,000) and a smoking cessation educational program (\$250,000);
- complete cancer screening, biopsies, and referral of patients for treatment;
- a current statewide total of 91 African-American males with oral cancer;
- screening of 5% of the target population, or 7,536 individuals, at \$15 each;
- \$220 for biopsies at \$44 each for an estimated five confirmed cases; and
- treatment procedures are done in a hospital setting, and based on the historic age of patients, there will be no uninsured oral cancer patients needing coverage as a result of this legislation.

Future year estimates increase with annualization and inflation and include a full salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1184 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2000  
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Analysis by: Louise Hanson

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510