

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1120 (Delegate Pitkin, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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**Health Care Facilities - Pain Management - The "Fifth Vital Sign"**

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This bill provides that a patient in: (i) a hospital; (ii) a comprehensive care or extended care facility (related institution); or (iii) any other type of health care facility has a right to expect and receive appropriate pain assessment, management, and treatment as an integral component of the patient's care. A hospital, related institution, or health care facility must include this right in its "patient's bill of rights" or similar document provided to patients.

In addition to monitoring blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and temperature, a health care facility must routinely assess, monitor, and record pain when monitoring the patient's vital signs.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must develop a pain management training program to ensure the competence in pain management of individuals who provide medical care directly to patients in health care facilities. A health care facility must implement the training program and require attendance by all individuals who work in the facility and provide medical care directly to patients. DHMH must adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The development of a pain management training program and adoption of regulations could be handled with existing DHMH resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Small business health care facilities that do not already comply with the bill's requirements could incur additional administrative expenses.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** None applicable.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community Public Health Administration, Board of Physician Quality Assurance, Boards and Commissions), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 6, 2001  
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