

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1220 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam)  
Environmental Matters

**Renal Dialysis Treatments - Transportation Assistance**

This bill requires the State Kidney Disease Program to provide transportation assistance to end-stage renal dialysis patients.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2005.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$119,100 in FY 2002. Future year revenues reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	119,100	107,900	110,200	112,400	28,700
Net Effect	(\$119,100)	(\$107,900)	(\$110,200)	(\$112,400)	(\$28,700)

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Beginning July 1, 2002, the program must provide transportation assistance to participants who: (1) are end-stage renal dialysis patients; and (2) apply to the program for transportation assistance to or from renal dialysis treatments. The bill

mandates that in providing such services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is to purchase, with moneys from the Kidney Disease Fund: (1) not fewer than two multi-passenger vehicles to transport renal dialysis patients needing transportation assistance; (2) employ not fewer than two drivers to drive the multi-passenger vehicles; and (3) employ not fewer than one patient aide for each multi-passenger vehicle used. The State Commission on Kidney Disease is required to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill and report annually to the Governor and appropriate committees of the General Assembly on the impact of the bill and the cost to the Kidney Disease Program and the Kidney Disease Fund of providing transportation assistance.

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** The Kidney Disease Program provides funding for kidney disease treatment to qualified individuals. The Kidney Disease Fund contains certification fees paid by kidney dialysis and transplant centers. DHMH estimates that this program will serve approximately 300 patients.

**State Expenditures:** This bill requires that transportation service begin operation on July 1, 2001. Consequently, some expenses will be incurred in fiscal 2002 in order to make the program operational by fiscal 2003. These expenses will amount to approximately \$119,097 in fiscal 2002, and include the costs of: (1) two multi-passenger vehicles with wheelchair lifts; (2) salaries and fringe benefits for four contractual employees (two drivers and two aids) for one month; and (3) automobile operation costs for one month.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$7,557
Vehicle Purchase	110,000
Automobile Operations	<u>1,540</u>
<b>Total FY 2002 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$119,097</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 2.3% increase annually and 3.8% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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