

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1442 (Delegate Love)
Environmental Matters

**Health Services Cost Review Commission - Study of Uncompensated Care in
Emergency Departments**

This bill requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) to conduct a study on uncompensated care provided by hospital emergency department physicians. The HSCRC must report its findings to the Governor, the House Economic Matters Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee by January 1, 2002.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002 and sunsets December 31, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expenses associated with conducting this study could be handled with existing HSCRC budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The HSCRC must include in its study: (1) the degree to which emergency department care is uncompensated; (2) the moneys spent in attempting to collect compensation and the eventual return on those moneys; (3) the facilities at which emergency department care most frequently goes uncompensated; (4) the degree to which the lack of compensation for emergency department care drives the level of charges for emergency room services; (5) the degree to which the lack of compensation for

emergency department care drives the level of uncompensated care in hospitals generally; (6) the degree to which the lack of compensation for emergency department care drives the level of hospital rates; and (7) the cost of emergency department care not included in HSCRC rates.

Current Law: None applicable.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Services Cost Review Commission), Department of Legislative Services

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ef/jr

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