Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 62 (Chairman, Finance Committee and Senator Hoffman)
(Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)

Finance

Maryland Youth Camps - Days of Operation and Regulations

This departmental bill increases the number of "residential camps" regulated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) by altering the definition of residential camp by changing from seven to five the minimum number of days that a camp operates. The bill also requires DHMH to adopt regulations regarding safety procedures for the transportation of campers and minimum standards, including staffing ratios, for the supervision of campers.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues are expected to increase by $10,000 annually beginning in FY 2002. General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated $73,900 in FY 2002. Future year expenditure estimates reflect annualization and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
GF Revenue	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
GF Expenditure	73,900	55,900	58,700	61,600	64,700
Net Effect	($63,900)	($45,900)	($48,700)	($51,600)	($54,700)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that the bill has a meaningful impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: Residential camp means a youth camp operating at a facility or campsite at which a camper either lives apart or intends to live apart from the camper's relatives, parents, or legal guardians for at least seven consecutive 24-hour days. No minimum staff to camper ratios exist for supervision of campers during routine camp activities, and no transportation safety standards exist.

Background: According to DHMH, currently only 20% of the residential youth camps in Maryland are required to be certified. The department does not certify the other 80% because they are exempt from the regulations for certification of youth camps since they operate for less than seven consecutive days.

With respect to safety standards for transportation and supervision of campers, DHMH asserts that campers are transported from place to place by youth camp personnel for participation in various activities. However, no transportation standards exist due to limitations of statutory authority. Moreover, no minimum staff to camper ratios exist for supervision of campers during routine camp activities. Staff to camper supervision standards only exist for specialized high risk activities.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase by an estimated $10,000 in fiscal 2002. This estimate reflects the licensure of 100 additional camps at a fee of $100 per camp per year. Out-year revenues are anticipated to remain constant.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated $73,918 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for a 90-day start up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one temporary contractual sanitarian and one full-time sanitarian to perform a certification inspection, a reinspection, at least one routine operating inspection, necessary follow ups, and training of new youth camp directors at the 100 new camps. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses, including a laptop, certain field testing equipment, and a State-owned automobile for each sanitarian. Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with a 3% employee turnover for the full-time employee and a 2.3% increase in fiscal 2003 and each year thereafter, with a 3.8% employee turnover for the contractual employee; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced in the 1998 session as HB 662 and received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 22, 2001
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