

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 863

(Delegates Shriver and Donoghue)

Environmental Matters

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**Health Care Facilities - Pain Management**

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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 adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The 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 (Office of Health Care Quality, Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Legislative Services

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