

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 34 (Delegate Stern)

Environmental Matters

Food Service Facilities - Food Allergy Alert Posters

This bill requires the display of a food allergy alert poster in the kitchen or other employee area of any school cafeteria or food service facility that prepares food for patrons. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is required to approve the food allergy alert posters.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Minimal.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: Reports cite that individuals with food allergies often have difficulty obtaining correct information about food ingredients in restaurants due to inadequate labeling on food products and uninformed staff. The reports further state that restaurant staff awareness of the potential severity of food allergic reactions, and their ability to recognize anaphylaxis and properly alert emergency response teams when such incidents arise, is lacking.

Additional Information: Food allergy alert posters are available for purchase for \$5 each from the Food Allergy Alert Network.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services; Allegany, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Baltimore City; Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community Public Health Administration); Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction); Department of Legislative Services

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