

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 626 (Senator Hollinger)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Coordination of Immunization Services Act of 2001

This bill creates the Immunet Program within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill codifies existing practice. DHMH's FY 2002 budget allowance includes \$3.4 million (\$360,500 general funds, \$2,994,900 federal funds) for this program. The criminal penalty provisions of this bill are not expected to significantly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: "Immunet" is defined as a computerized information and reminder system used to: (1) improve the timely and appropriate delivery of immunizations; (2) provide a coordinated network for reminder notices when immunizations are due; (3) provide and collect information to be shared by authorized users; and (4) provide a quality indicator for insurers, health care providers, and public health purposes. An "authorized user" of Immunet is: (1) a child care facility; (2) a health care provider; (3) a health insurer; (4) an HMO; (5) an institution of higher learning; (6) a local health

department; (7) a long-term care facility; (8) a Medicaid managed care organization; (9) a nonprofit health service plan; (10) a patient; (11) a school; (12) a school-based health center; (13) a parent or guardian of a minor child; and (14) any other user designated by DHMH.

If an individual does not want the release of confidential immunization information, the individual must complete a “refusal to permit” form provided by DHMH. DHMH must distribute “refusal to permit” forms to health care providers who give immunizations. DHMH must develop and distribute brochures about Immunet that describe the benefits of Immunet, privacy rights, and other relevant information about the program.

DHMH may enter into collaborative agreements with other states for the purpose of sharing information about immunizations. Confidentiality of immunization records must be protected.

An authorized user who knowingly and willfully violates any of the bill’s requirements is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for the first offense and up to \$5,000 for each subsequent offense.

Current Law: None applicable.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1075 (Delegates Klausmeier and Guns) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community Public Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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jm/jr

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