

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 130

(The President)

(Department of Legislative Services)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

**Office for Individuals with Disabilities - Sunset Extension and Program
Evaluation**

This bill extends the sunset date for the Office for Individuals with Disabilities (OID) from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2015. The bill also extends the deadline for a sunset evaluation of the office from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues and expenditures would be maintained for OID beyond FY 2005. The proposed FY 2003 State budget includes \$719,376 in general funds for OID and assumes \$1,413,949 in federal fund revenues and \$108,804 in special fund revenues. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: OID is required to identify and evaluate the programs and services for individuals with disabilities in the State; collect information to identify programs and services that individuals with disabilities need; identify barriers to the delivery of adequate services and recommend procedures to remove the barriers; develop an information and referral service for programs and services for individuals with

disabilities; foster coordination of and support for public and private agencies that provide programs and services to individuals with disabilities; promote the designation of local or regional offices to coordinate services to individuals with disabilities; and monitor and encourage State government compliance with laws and policies affecting individuals with disabilities, and recommend changes on behalf of individuals with disabilities. The office must submit to the Governor and to the General Assembly an annual report that sets forth the status of these programs and services, makes recommendations for more effective delivery of the services, and provides updated information on implementation by the office of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the office supports the Maryland Advisory Council for Individuals with Disabilities (MACID) and annually recommends capital budget projects to the Department of Budget and Management that would promote access to State-owned facilities for individuals with disabilities.

The office is subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, also known as the “the sunset law,” which provides a system of periodic legislative review of the regulatory, licensing, and other governmental activities of various units of State government.

Background: The General Assembly created the Office for Coordination of Services within the Office of Governor in 1977. The office was reorganized by statute in 1984 as the Office for Handicapped Individuals. It was renamed the Governor’s Office for Individuals with Disabilities in 1991.

This bill arises out of the preliminary sunset evaluation of OID by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) during 2001. In its report, DLS recommended that the Legislative Policy Committee waive OID from a full evaluation and that legislation be enacted to extend the office’s termination date to July 1, 2015. DLS also recommended that OID submit a follow-up report to the Legislative Policy Committee by October 1, 2002 with OID’s plan to enhance its information and referral service for individuals with disabilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 134 (The Speaker) (Department of Legislative Services) – Commerce and Government Matters.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Financial Administration; Preliminary Evaluation of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities, Department of Legislative Services, November 2001

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lsc/jr

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