

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 72 (Delegates Stern and Barve)  
 Economic Matters

**Bioscience Issues and Concerns - State Advisory Council**

This bill creates a State Advisory Council on Bioscience Issues and Concerns to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on bioscience related legislation and significant new developments within the bioscience field.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) general fund expenditures would increase by \$25,900 in FY 2003 to staff the council. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) could absorb the cost of staffing the advisory council within existing budgeted resources. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	25,900	28,100	29,400	30,700	32,100
Net Effect	(\$25,900)	(\$28,100)	(\$29,400)	(\$30,700)	(\$32,100)

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** There are a number of State commissions required under statute that research issues and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, such as the Commission on Complementary Medical Methods.

Bioscience is defined as the application and integration of scientific disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, information theory, computer science, psychology, and engineering to the study, manipulation, and commercialization of living organisms or material derived from living organisms.

The 17 advisory council members will serve two-year terms and may be reappointed for up to three consecutive terms. The advisory council will examine proposed bioscience related legislation including, but not limited to, bills regarding stem cell research, cloning, guidelines for human medical research, bioengineered food, and bioengineered livestock. Advisory council members will not receive compensation but will be reimbursed for travel expenses. DHMH and MDA must provide staff to support the advisory council. The council shall meet at least twice a year.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$25,238 in fiscal 2003, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2002 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of DHMH's Community Health Administration hiring a half-time administrator to staff the council. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$19,978
Operating Expenses	<u>\$5,876</u>
<b>Total FY 2003 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$25,854</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 2.5% increase in fiscal 2004 and a 3.5% increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

DHMH reported that it would need one full-time administrator position to staff this council because existing staff could not handle the additional duties. DLS disagrees. Since DHMH and MDA will share the responsibility of staffing the task force, a half-time position at DHMH should be sufficient, assuming that existing staff could not handle the additional duties.

DHMH also reported that it would need \$5,625 in fiscal 2003 to pay its half of consultant fees that it would share with MDA, for a total of 100 hours of work by consultants per year at \$150 per hour. DLS disagrees. The advisory council will be comprised of several subject matter experts including three scientists or educators from educational institutions within the State, an attorney familiar with the legal implications of bioscience, a person familiar with the religious implications of bioscience, and seven people from bioscience fields. The council may also request other experts to testify before its members.

MDA assumes that its part in staffing the council would be done with existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland  
Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 22, 2002  
lsc/jr

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