

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

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 532

(Delegate C. Davis)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Osteoporosis Prevention and  
Education Task Force**

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This bill establishes a 16-member Osteoporosis Prevention and Education Task Force to conduct a needs assessment to identify available educational materials and programs, needs of osteoporosis patients, and needs of health care providers. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must staff the task force and by December 1 of each year submit a report of the task force's findings to the Governor and the General Assembly.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must make recommendations to DHMH about: (1) any legislation or regulation necessary or desirable to implement the bill; (2) developing a public education and outreach campaign to promote osteoporosis prevention and education; (3) developing educational materials targeted to high-risk groups; (4) developing professional education programs; (5) developing and maintaining a list of

current providers of specialized services for the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis; and (6) gathering data to track the incidence of osteoporosis in the State.

**Current Law:** Health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations are required to provide coverage to qualified individuals for reimbursement for bone mass measurement for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. However, the legislation that mandated this coverage did not include any provisions for education or study.

**Background:** Osteoporosis is a bone-thinning disease that threatens the health and quality of life of as many as 25 million Americans. According to the National Institutes of Health, osteoporosis causes more than 1.5 million fractures annually, resulting in \$10 billion to \$15 billion per year in health care costs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced as SB 851 in the 2001 session. It received an unfavorable report from the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. The bill also was introduced as HB 1318 in the 2000 session. It received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee. It was introduced as HB 460 in the 1999 session, where it was withdrawn after a hearing in the House Environmental Matters Committee, and as HB 684 in the 1998 session, where it was not reported from the House Environmental Matters Committee. A similar bill was introduced in 1998 but was withdrawn after re-referral to the House Environmental Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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