

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 815 (Senator Forehand)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Genetics Public Education Program

This bill creates a Genetics Public Education Program within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders must develop and implement the program within DHMH's Family Health Administration's Office for Genetics and for Children with Special Health Care Needs. DHMH must adopt regulations to implement the program and by December 1, 2004 submit a report assessing the program's effectiveness to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$96,300 in FY 2003 to operate the program. Future years reflect annualization, inflation, and an increase in contractual expenditures for public education materials. 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	96,300	187,000	152,100	167,700	163,300
Net Effect	(\$96,300)	(\$187,000)	(\$152,100)	(\$167,700)	(\$163,300)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: No law is directly applicable to this bill. However, DHMH has a public education component to several of its programs, including its heart disease and stroke prevention programs.

Background: There are genetics curricula available that can be used directly or adapted for use in the public schools. The Office for Genetics and for Children with Special Health Care Needs and the Maryland State Department of Education last revised the genetics education curricula in 1993.

The Human Genome Project, which mapped and sequenced the human genome, has a free education kit available that can be downloaded off its web site. The project is part of the National Human Genome Research Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.

The free modules cover: milestones in genetics; genes, variation, and human history; how to sequence a genome; ethical, legal, and social implications; a glossary of genetic terms; and exploring our molecular selves. Three other educational modules are available free for viewing from the project's web site: a 15-minute video documentary entitled "The Secrets of Our Lives," two essays on the future of research and medicine, and a brochure on genetics.

The availability of these materials would facilitate the work of the program.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$96,335 in fiscal 2003, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2002 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring two community health educators to review, develop, and adapt educational materials in genetics, provide training to the local health departments, and provide continuing education for professionals and the general public. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$72,256
Printing and Materials	11,250
Equipment	9,376
Other Operating Expenses	<u>3,453</u>
Total FY 2003 State Expenditures	\$96,335

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses; (3) printing booklet costs each year; (4) an informative television spot in fiscal 2004 and 2006; (5) videotapes for public education in fiscal 2004, 2005, and 2007; and (6) materials for committee meetings each year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1132 (Delegate Finifter) - Environmental Matters.

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

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