

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 496

(Delegate Frush, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Health - Hepatitis B Disease - Vaccination of First Time Enrollees at Institutions  
of Higher Education**

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This bill requires a first-time enrollee in an institution of higher education to be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus. First time enrollees must receive the first dose of a three-dose Hepatitis B vaccination before attending the institution of higher education and must have received the third dose within nine months of attendance. However, a student is exempt from the requirement if the student (or student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor) signs a waiver that states the student has received and reviewed information on the disease provided by the institution of higher education and has chosen not to vaccinate. Institutions are not required to provide or pay for the vaccinations.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003 and sunsets June 30, 2013.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 580 of 2000 requires a student enrolled in an institution of higher education who lives in on-campus student housing to be vaccinated against

meningococcal disease. A person is exempt from the vaccination requirement if the student (or student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor) signs a waiver that states the student has received and reviewed the information on the disease provided by the institution of higher education and has chosen not to vaccinate. Institutions of higher education are not required to provide or pay for the vaccinations.

**Background:** Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The hepatitis B virus can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a routine vaccination for people up to age 18 to prevent infection. The number of new Hepatitis B infections nationwide per year was approximately 80,000 in 1999. The highest rate of the disease occurs in individuals age 20 to 49.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2002  
mld/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2002

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