

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 656 (Delegate D'Amato, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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Nursing Homes - Quality of Care - Assisted Living Services

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This bill renames the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes to the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs. The bill adds one member, a representative of the Mid-Atlantic Life Span Association, to the committee. It requires the committee to evaluate regulations on assisted living programs and services, including the: (1) administration of medication; (2) qualifications of staff; and (3) number of staff. By February 2, 2003, the committee must make recommendations to improve the quality of care in assisted living services.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The additional duties of the task force could be handled with the existing resources of the entities represented on the task force. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes was created in 2000. The committee must monitor and evaluate implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities, created pursuant to Chapters 382 and 383 of 1999, as well as the progress in improving nursing home care quality statewide.

**Background:** Chapters 382 and 383 of 1999 established the Task Force on Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities. The task force is staffed by the Department of Aging, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Legislative Services. The task force studied various issues relating to quality of care initiatives in nursing homes, and issued its report to the General Assembly in December 1999. One of the task force's recommendations, enacted as Chapter 216 of 2000, was to continue the task force as an oversight committee to monitor the progress on the implementation of the task force's recommendations to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The committee will terminate on December 31, 2005.

There are approximately 245 nursing homes and 1,800 assisted living facilities in Maryland.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2002  
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