

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 746

(Senators Collins and Hollinger)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

**Assisted Living Programs - Alzheimer's Special Care Unit or Program -
Disclosure of Services**

This bill requires an assisted living program that provides care for or offers to provide care for persons with Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder by means of an Alzheimer's special care unit or program must disclose how the form of care and treatment provided by the unit or program is specifically designed for the specialized care of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The collection of disclosure materials and the adoption of regulations could be handled with existing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small business facilities that provide Alzheimer's special care units would be required to submit certain information to DHMH's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ).

Analysis

Bill Summary: At the time of licensure or license renewal, an assisted living program with an Alzheimer's special care unit or program must send to DHMH a written description of the special care unit or program. The assisted living program must also disclose the written description of the special care unit or program to: (1) any person

upon request; and (2) the family or party responsible for any resident prior to admission to the Alzheimer's special care unit or program.

The disclosure must contain the following information: (1) a statement of philosophy or mission; (2) staff training and job titles; (3) admission procedures including screening criteria; (4) assessment and care planning protocol; (5) staffing patterns; (6) description of the physical environment and any unique design features appropriate to support the functioning of cognitively impaired individuals; (7) a description of activities including frequency and type; (8) charges to residents for services provided; (9) discharge procedures; (10) any services, training, or other procedures that are over and above those provided in the existing assisted living program; and (11) any other information required by DHMH.

DHMH may adopt regulations that govern the submission of disclosure materials to DHMH and to consumers.

Current Law: A licensed comprehensive care or extended care facility may establish special care units with the approval of OHCQ. The facility must provide OHCQ with: (1) a description and scope of services to be provided; (2) an organization chart of the special care unit and its interrelatedness to the rest of the facility; (3) a description of staffing patterns; (4) qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of personnel; (5) a quality assurance plan; (6) policies and procedures including the transfer of residents, the administration of medicines, infection control, pertinent safety practices, and preventive maintenance; (7) protocols for obtaining specialized services; (8) protocols for emergency situations; and (9) an inventory of the specialized equipment in the unit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation introduced in 1996, SJ 3 and HJ 9, urged nursing homes and assisted living facilities that offered special care for Alzheimer's patients to disclose its services to consumers and the appropriate State licensing agency. Both joint resolutions were reported unfavorably by their respective committees.

Cross File: HB 1282 (Delegate Hecht) – Environmental Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2002
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