

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 558 (Senator Collins)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health - Infectious and Contagious Diseases - Hepatitis B Virus

This bill requires an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education and living in on-campus student housing to be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus. 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. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, must adopt regulations to implement this requirement. Institutions are not required to provide or pay for the vaccinations.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None listed. However, HB 496 as introduced is identical.

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

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