

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 360 (Delegate Rosenberg)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Affairs

Mental Health - Early Childhood Mental Health Services - Pilot Program

This bill codifies an Early Childhood Mental Health Services Pilot Program in Baltimore City and the Eastern Shore, contingent upon the State receiving federal or other sources of funds before July 1, 2003.

The bill expires December 31, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2004 because the FY 2004 budget allowance includes \$414,717 in federal funds for the existing program grants. Future years assume the availability of federal and/or special funds to cover expenditures, and reflect inflation and the program ending December 31, 2007. It is assumed that general funds could not be used to support this program.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF/FF Exp.	0	418,900	423,100	427,300	215,800
Net Effect	\$0	(\$418,900)	(\$423,100)	(\$427,300)	(\$215,800)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The pilot program must provide mental health screening and consultation services for children under age six who are in early childhood programs or in licensed or registered child care facilities and to licensed or registered child care providers.

The program may include: (1) formal child care provider training in the social and emotional development of the child; (2) mental health consultation for child care providers; (3) mental health consultation at the child care site or the family's home to meet the needs of children and their families; (4) family support initiatives; (5) crisis intervention services; (6) therapeutic nursery programs; and (7) programs to recruit and train early childhood mental health professionals in conjunction with higher education institutions in Maryland.

The Department of Human Resources' Child Care Administration (CCA); in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA); the State Department of Education; and the Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2005 that evaluates the pilot program and applicable comparable programs.

Current Law: Statute does not require State-funded child care providers to offer mental health services.

Background: CCA already funds two early childhood mental health services programs in Baltimore City and on the Eastern Shore through the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Intervention grant, which serves children who are identified as having a mental health issue. The grants are funded entirely with federal Child Care Development Funds.

The Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center's \$430,000 grant, which covers a two-year period, began June 17, 2002 and expires June 16, 2004. The program is serving 334 children over the two years. The Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, which subcontracts with the Family League of Baltimore City, received a \$399,434 grant for a two-year period, which began July 15, 2002 and expires July 14, 2004. The program is serving 778 children, 384 children per year, in seven communities in Baltimore City.

According to CCA, the grantees already provide all of the services required under the bill and also most of the optional services the bill states providers may offer.

State Fiscal Effect: CCA has already contracted with service providers in Baltimore City and on the Eastern Shore to offer early childhood mental health services. In fiscal 2004, CCA has budgeted \$414,717 for both contracts, \$215,000 for the Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center and \$199,717 for the Family League of Baltimore City. Future year expenditures assume 1% inflation in the amount of the grants and the program expiring December 15, 2008. The program's continuation beyond fiscal 2004 is contingent upon the State receiving sufficient federal and/or special funds before July 1, 2003 to finance the program. It is assumed that the bill prohibits the use of general funds to support this program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

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