

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 433 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, et al.)
Health and Government Operations

Finance

Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders

This bill creates a 24-member Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders staffed by the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. The task force must issue an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2004 and a final report by December 1, 2005. MHA must conduct or commission a study on the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness among counties in Maryland. The study's findings and recommendations are due to the Governor; the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; the Senate Finance Committee; and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by January 1, 2004. The bill terminates December 31, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$35,000 in FY 2004 to commission a study. Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Table with 6 columns: (in dollars), FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008. Rows include Revenues, GF Expenditure, and Net Effect.

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

Local Effect: None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Background:** The Maryland Mental Health Coalition's Joint Workgroup on Co-Occurring Disorders surveyed all providers licensed by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration or MHA to identify the types of services available to persons with substance abuse problems and mental illnesses. Preliminary results from the survey included:

- 77.8% of respondents reported people living in their area did not know what services were available for individuals with co-occurring disorders or how to access them;
- 58.4% of respondents reported that the current addiction treatment delivery system under Health Choice was not effective for people receiving the services; and
- 63.7% of respondents reported that the current mental health delivery system was not effective for people receiving the services.

Seven to ten million people in the United States have an alcohol or drug use problem and at least one mental disorder, according to the *Report to Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Co-occurring Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Disorders*, released December 2, 2002 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. The report found that if one disorder goes untreated, both disorders will worsen and can cause additional problems.

Maryland has three programs serving youth, young adults, and homeless people who have co-occurring disorders. Two projects provide outpatient services and outreach to American Indian and Hispanic community groups. One project developed transitional programs for adolescents and young adults with co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders, and another provided comprehensive clinical services and rental assistance.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$35,000 in fiscal 2004 for MHA to commission a study on the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness among counties in Maryland. MHA estimated that general fund expenditures could increase by an additional \$40,937 in fiscal 2004 to hire a full-time employee to staff the task force and pay for other operating expenses. The Department of Legislative Services believes that existing employees can provide staff support to the task force.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Report to Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Co-occurring Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Disorders*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, December 2, 2002; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2003  
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