

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 195 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

Disease Prevention - Hepatitis A and B Education and Prevention Program

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish and promote a statewide public information program, making use of mass media, on hepatitis A and B education and prevention. The Secretary is also required to establish guidelines for measuring the success of the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$500,000 to \$1 million annually for the public education program (not shown below) and \$44,800 for an employee to monitor the program beginning in FY 2004. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	44,800	54,500	57,800	61,300	65,200
Net Effect	(\$44,800)	(\$54,500)	(\$57,800)	(\$61,300)	(\$65,200)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Background: Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver and is caused most often by a virus. The most common types of hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, and C. Hepatitis A is the

least serious form. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) once a person is infected with hepatitis A, that person develops an immunity to the virus. CDC reports that approximately one-third of Americans had evidence of past hepatitis A infection. The hepatitis B virus can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. Hepatitis B is usually spread from one person to another by direct exposure to infected blood or blood products, and needles or other sharp objects. Hepatitis B is also frequently spread through sexual contact and from mother to baby at birth, and can also be transmitted by sharing toothbrushes or nail files. According to CDC there were approximately 78,000 new hepatitis B infections in 2001. The highest rate of the disease occurs in individuals ages 20 to 49.

All children in the State, beginning in preschool, must be vaccinated against hepatitis B.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by \$500,000 to \$1 million in fiscal 2004 to develop and implement a mass media public information program. The cost of the mass media campaign may vary depending on the media outlets used and the frequency of the advertising. In addition, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will need a program administrator to implement the program and assist in its evaluation at a cost of \$44,816 in fiscal 2004 (salary, fringe benefits, and operating expenses), which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2003 effective date (about \$52,000 on an annualized basis).

Future year personnel expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 1035, was introduced in the Environmental Matters Committee during the 2002 session and was unfavorably reported in that committee. HB 655, a similar bill introduced in the 2001 session, also received an unfavorable report in the Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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