

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 509 (Delegate Stern, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

Advisory Council on Obesity in Youth

This bill creates an 18-member State Advisory Council on Obesity in Youth to serve as a coordinating body for agencies and organizations which work on youth obesity issues; collect and analyze data and reports prepared by Maryland departments and agencies; investigate other state practices; hold community forums; develop a system for collecting, analyzing, and maintaining statewide data; and make recommendations for improving the physical layout of schools, youth centers, and parks and recreational areas to encourage increased physical activities.

The advisory council must issue a report that includes recommendations on obesity in youth issues in Maryland to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 1, 2005, and every two years thereafter. The bill does not designate who must staff the advisory council.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$254,000 in FY 2004 for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to hire two half-time employees and conduct a youth obesity survey. Future years reflect annualization and inflation for staff expenses and operating costs, and a follow-up survey in FY 2008. 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 | 254,000 | 58,500 | 61,700 | 65,200 | 268,900 |
| Net Effect | (\$254,000) | (\$58,500) | (\$61,700) | (\$65,200) | (\$268,900) |

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one in five children in the United States is overweight. The increase in the number of overweight children is occurring in both children and adolescents among all ages, races, and genders. Children who are obese experience health problems such as type 2 diabetes, orthopedic problems, sleep apnea, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, liver disease, and asthma.

State Expenditures: Although the bill does not specify which State department will staff the advisory council and fulfill the bill's requirements, the Department of Legislative Services assumes, for the purposes of this analysis, that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will staff the advisory council. General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$254,005 in fiscal 2004, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2003 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one half-time coordinator of special programs and one half-time research statistician to perform the functions required by the bill. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, ongoing operating expenses. DHMH advises that it would develop a system for collecting, analyzing, and maintaining statewide childhood obesity data by conducting a survey in fiscal 2004 and every four years thereafter.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Salaries and Fringe Benefits | \$36,390 |
| Youth Obesity Survey | 200,000 |
| Other Operating Expenses | <u>17,615</u> |
| Total FY 2004 State Expenditures | \$254,005 |

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 6.8% employee turnover; (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses; and (3) a follow-up youth obesity survey in fiscal 2008.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
lc/jr

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