

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 719

(Delegate Oaks, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Department of the Environment - Paint Retailers - Printed Information on Lead Risk Reduction

This bill requires a retailer of paint or paint supplies to display a specified poster within an area in which paint or paint supplies are sold or displayed or at each register or checkout aisle. The poster must include information relating to the dangers and hazards of lead poisoning and a phone number consumers can call for assistance in lead risk reduction and safe renovation practices. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must develop the poster and provide it to retailers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by at least \$13,200 in FY 2004 to develop and provide posters to retailers. 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	13,200	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$13,200)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 114 of 1994 established the Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Program in MDE. The program provides limited liability relief for owners of rental property built before 1950 and others in exchange for the reduction of lead hazards in these older rental properties and limited compensation of children poisoned by lead. The

program also provides increased public health intervention. MDE is the State's leading agency because it identifies and monitors properties contaminated with lead paint.

Background: Lead poisoning impacts the cognitive and physical development of young children. Children are exposed to lead through breathing lead paint dust, eating lead paint chips, or absorbing lead while in-utero. Most of the exposures to lead can be eliminated by removing lead paint from the homes of children and pregnant women. Although the number of cases of childhood lead poisoning in Maryland has decreased over the past few years (from 772 cases in 1998 to 288 cases in 2001), lead paint remains a significant health issue.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by at least \$13,200 in fiscal 2004. This estimate reflects costs to design, develop, and mail 1,500 posters (one poster for each of the 1,500 identified paint retailers in Maryland), including costs for contractual services for design and development.

Postage/Equipment	\$9,460
Contractual Services	<u>3,740</u>
Total FY 2004 GF Expenditures	\$13,200

This estimate does not include costs to supply posters to retailers that sell only paint supplies because the number of those retailers is unknown.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2003
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Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510