

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1270 (Delegate Menes)
 Health and Government Operations

Task Force to Study the Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

This bill creates a Task Force to Study the Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome staffed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The task force must: (1) with DHMH, identify Maryland individuals, families, and populations at risk for acquiring fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and fetal alcohol effects; (2) review and coordinate existing programs of State agencies that involve FAS; and (3) develop guidelines for creating a comprehensive statewide FAS public awareness, prevention, and education campaign. A report on the task force’s findings and recommendations is due by October 31, 2005 to the Governor, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill terminates October 31, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$25,100 in FY 2005 and by \$8,300 in FY 2006, which reflects the bill’s October 31, 2005 termination date. No effect on general fund revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	25,100	8,300	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$25,100)	(\$8,300)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: FAS is listed as a nutritional risk factor for infants and children receiving benefits from the federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program).

Between 3 and 22 live births out of every 10,000 live births in the U.S. are affected by FAS. Signs of FAS may include: small head circumference and brain size; small teeth with faulty enamel; heart defects; deformities of joints, limbs, and fingers; slow physical growth after birth; difficulties seeing; mental retardation and delayed development; and abnormal behavior such as a short attention span, hyperactivity, poor impulse control, extreme nervousness, and anxiety.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$25,093 in fiscal 2005, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2004 effective. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time epidemiologist to staff the task force and assist it in identifying individuals, families, and populations at risk for acquiring FAS and fetal alcohol effects. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$18,583
Travel	1,500
Operating Expenses	<u>5,010</u>
Total FY 2005 State Expenditures	\$25,093

Future year expenditures reflect the task force terminating October 31, 2005 (\$8,260 general fund expenditure).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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