

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 100 (Senators Middleton and Dyson)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Health Regulations for Bed and Breakfast Operators

This bill creates a Task Force to Study Health Regulations for Bed and Breakfast Operators. The task force must: (1) study the health regulations that govern bed and breakfast operators; (2) study the advantages and disadvantages of requiring a commercial or stainless steel kitchen when serving a hot meal; (3) compare State health regulations with health regulations in other states that govern bed and breakfast operators; and (4) make recommendations regarding the need for a commercial or stainless steel kitchen when serving a hot meal and the need for a change in current regulation of bed and breakfast operators. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) will provide staff.

The task force must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 30, 2004.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004 and expires December 31, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DLS are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Bed and breakfast operators that serve food are regulated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as food service facilities. Regulations require all new equipment to meet the applicable standards set by the National Sanitation Foundation, the Commercial Refrigeration Manufacturers' Association, and the Bakery Industry Sanitation Standards Committee or other applicable standards acceptable to the approving authority.

Background: In his May 21, 2003 veto message of a similar bill, SB 153, Governor Ehrlich stated that this task force is unnecessary. He indicated that task forces are a drain on State agencies' time and resources and should be used sparingly. Instead of creating task forces, he recommended stakeholders and State representatives continue this dialogue and work together to resolve their problems in the normal course of business.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 153 of 2003 passed in both the House and the Senate but was vetoed by Governor Ehrlich.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2004
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