

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1391
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Local Departments of Social Services - Local Directors - Appointment and Removal

This bill provides that local directors of social services must be appointed and removed by the county executive, the county commissioners, the Mayor of Baltimore City, the county council of Talbot or Wicomico counties, or a designee of the county executive or commissioners or Mayor, with the Secretary of Human Resources' concurrence. Local directors must have a minimum of five years full-time professional employment in the social services administration field or supervision at a senior management level. An individual appointed as an acting or interim local director may not serve for more than six months. Local director appointees must come from a list of candidates submitted by each local board of social services and the Commission of Social Services in Baltimore City, whether they are serving in a permanent, acting, or interim capacity.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004 and applies retroactively to affect any local director appointments made after August 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and would not directly affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In each county and Baltimore City, the local director of social services must be appointed and may be removed from office with the concurrence of the Secretary of Human Resources and, as appropriate, the county executive, the county commissioners, the Mayor of Baltimore City, the county council of Talbot or Wicomico counties, or a designee of the county executive, county commissioners, or Mayor.

Any person appointed as a director of a local department of social services must have at least: (1) a master's degree in social work or a related field and at least five years of professional employment in the field of social services administration or supervision; and (2) any other qualifications and training the Secretary of Human Resources requires.

The board of each local department of social services in the counties and the local commission of the Department of Social Services in Baltimore City has the various duties and functions, including: (1) to advise the local director as to the local application of State policies or procedures; (2) to be well informed on local departmental activities; and (3) to communicate to the residents of the counties and Baltimore City information as to the objectives, policies, programs, and problems of local social services and public assistance administration.

Background: This bill addresses the Governor's appointment of Floyd Blair as interim director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services last year that occurred without the concurrence of the Baltimore City Mayor. The City of Baltimore filed a lawsuit in November to block Blair's appointment. The case is expected to be heard in August.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 835 is listed as the cross file, but it is not identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2004
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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

