

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 37 (Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Human Resources)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Child Care Administration Advisory Council - Reimbursement for Expenses**

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This departmental bill allows Child Care Administration Advisory Council (the council) members who are child care consumers or providers to be reimbursed for travel expenses to attend council meetings. The bill continues the existing prohibition against compensating members for council duties.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any reimbursement costs for the Department of Human Resources (DHR) would be minimal and could be absorbed within existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** DHR has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 394 of 1991 established the council. Chapter 10 of 1998 expanded the council to at least 25 members, but not more than 30 members. The council (1) advises the DHR Child Care Administration (CCA); (2) reviews regulations proposed by State agencies regulating child care to insure coordination and consistency; (3) reviews issues and problems related to caring for children and suggests CCA priorities; and (4) identifies interdepartmental issues important to child care providers and users that should be addressed by CCA and other State agencies.

Council members may not receive compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

**Background:** There are six council members who represent child care consumers or providers. The remaining members represent State and local governments and organizations that reimburse them for expenses associated with council meetings. For consumer and provider members to participate, parents must take leave from their jobs and providers often must pay substitutes to care for the children. Parents and child care providers have cited the costs associated with attending council meetings as reasons for not accepting offers to become council members or for not attending meetings once appointed.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 19, 2004  
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