

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1198 (Delegates Rosenberg and Kach)
Health and Government Operations

Health Care Facilities - Advanced Cardiac Health Care Services

This bill requires a Certificate of Need (CON) to be issued before a health care facility establishes an advanced cardiac health care service and specifies what types of coronary procedures may be performed.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Advanced cardiac health care services” are percutaneous coronary intervention and open heart surgery. “Percutaneous coronary intervention” is a procedure whereby a catheter is inserted in a blood vessel and guided to the site to relieve coronary artery obstruction. “Primary percutaneous coronary intervention” means the same procedure, but performed on an emergency basis only for management of an acute myocardial infarction. Unless a facility also performs open heart surgery at the same location, a facility may only perform primary percutaneous coronary intervention.

Current Law: A CON is required to establish an open heart surgery service.

Background: The CON process, employed in most states, is a cost-containment regulatory method that began in the early 1970s. CONs prohibit capital expenditures by hospitals and other health care institutions unless a governmental agency finds a need for the new health care services to be offered. Beginning in the 1980s, some states eliminated the CON programs, while others modified the programs and continue to use them in combination with other regulatory programs. Overall, 27 states and the District of Columbia regulate cardiovascular services through a CON process.

The Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review recently approved new Maryland Health Care Commission regulations that permit percutaneous coronary intervention procedures to be performed only at a hospital with on-site cardiac surgical back-up.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Maryland Health Care Commission, Office of Health Care Quality), Department of Legislative Services

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