

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1151 (Delegate McDonough, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Task Force to Study the Impact of Illegal Aliens on Uncompensated Health Care

This bill creates the Task Force to Study the Impact of Illegal Immigrants on Uncompensated Health Care.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates June 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for nongovernmental task force members and staffing costs could be handled with existing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Department of Legislative Services (DLS) budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force is required to: (1) study the impact of illegal immigrants on health care providers and the effect of illegal immigrants on the cost of health care; (2) ascertain the amount and cost of services that health care providers and institutions provide to illegal immigrants; and (3) make recommendations regarding legislation to address programs documents by the task force. DHMH and DLS will provide staff for the task force. A report with findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2005.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: Immigration officials estimate there are 8 to 10 million illegal immigrants in the United States, most of whom are from Latin America. There are as many as 56,000 illegal immigrants in Maryland, or about 1% of the State's population.

Maryland's acute care hospitals are assessed a fee each year by the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) to cover uncompensated care provided by the hospitals. HSCRC redistributes the funds to those hospitals that treat a higher proportion of the State's uninsured population. The fund is expected to distribute \$74 million in fiscal 2006.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, HB 1119 of 2004, was withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2005
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Susan D. John

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