

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1542

(Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Maryland Quality Home Care Services Act

This bill transfers the Office of Personal Assistance Services, including the Attendant Care Program, from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to the Department of Disabilities (DD). All functions and activities of the office, except for those relating to the Living at Home Waiver, must be transferred to DD. In addition, it establishes the Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee within DD.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill transfers one staff position and the budget appropriation for the Office of Personal Assistance Services from DHR to DD. The FY 2006 appropriation for the office is \$973,073.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The committee must provide guidance to DD on personal care, attendant care, and home care services. The Office of Personal Assistance Services must staff the committee. The committee must report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1 annually.

All employees, including classified employees, of the Office of Personal Assistance Services who are transferred from DHR to DD must be transferred by July 1, 2005,

without any diminution of their rights, benefits, or employment and retirement status. All property, including real or personal property, records, fixtures, appropriations, credits, assets, liabilities, obligations, rights, and privileges held by the Office of Personal Assistance Services of DHR must be transferred to DD by July 1, 2005. All contracts, agreements, grants, or other obligations must also be transferred and are declared to be valid, legal, and binding.

All appropriations including State and federal funds held by the Office of Personal Assistance Services must be transferred to DD on July 1, 2005.

Current Law: This DHR program reimburses consumers with chronic or severe physical disabilities who require attendant services. Assistance is available for consumers currently employed, seeking employment, enrolled in a postsecondary or higher education institution, on a waiting list for a nursing home or similar institution licensed to provide chronic or intermediate care, or institutionalized in a nursing home or similar institution licensed to provide chronic or intermediate care but medically able to be discharged with the appropriate supports.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 830 of 2003, was passed by the House but withdrawn from the Senate.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2005
mll/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 6, 2005
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