

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 735

(Senator Grosfeld)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

**Task Force to Study Visual Smoke and Evacuation Alarms for the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing**

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Visual Smoke and Evacuation Alarms for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Chaired by the Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the task force is directed to study and make recommendations regarding emergency evacuation plans, emerging technology, installation costs of alarm systems, and potential funding sources related to the safety and security of people who are deaf and hard of hearing who live in apartments or condominiums. The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is responsible for staffing the task force.

The task force is required to report its findings and recommendations by September 30, 2006. The bill's provisions are terminated after that date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Residential dwelling units built after 1990 are required under State law to have both battery backup and alternating current smoke detectors.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1205 of 2004, a similar bill, had a hearing before the Environmental Matters Committee and had no further action taken on it.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2005
mp/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 2005
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