

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 506 (Senator Klausmeier)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Information to Parents - Meningococcal Disease

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), to develop materials that provide educational information about meningococcal disease. Public and private elementary and secondary schools must provide the materials to the parents and guardians of students in the schools at the beginning of each school year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming information that is already available can be used or modified slightly to meet the bill's requirements, MSDE could implement the bill with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures could increase minimally to print, copy, and distribute the required information.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Private school expenditures would increase minimally to print, copy, and distribute the required information.

Analysis

Current Law: With the assistance of the local health department, each local board of education must provide adequate school health services, instruction in health education, and a healthful school environment. MSDE and DHMH must jointly develop standards

and guidelines for school health programs and offer to help local boards of education and local health departments in their implementation.

Schools are not specifically required to provide the parents and guardians of students with information on meningococcal diseases.

Background: Meningococcal disease, commonly referred to as meningitis, is a viral or bacterial infection of the fluid that surrounds the brain. Bacterial meningitis, the more severe form of the disease, can result in brain damage, hearing loss, or a learning disability. Vaccines are effective against certain types of meningitis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2005
mam/rhh

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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