

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1557 (Delegate Murray)  
 Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Task Force on Men's Health**

This bill creates a Task Force on Men’s Health to: (1) review health care morbidity and mortality statistics and utilization patterns for Maryland men; (2) examine the availability and adequacy of health care services for men; (3) develop strategies and public policy recommendations to educate Maryland men on the benefits of regular checkups, early detection, preventative screening tests, and healthy lifestyle practices; (4) focus on improving health outcomes for men in specific disease areas, including prostate and testicular cancer, cardiovascular disease, depression, and diabetes; (5) develop strategies for preventative health care services that will reduce health insurance rates; and (6) recommend assistance, services, and policy changes that will improve men’s health care and health status. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will staff the task force, which must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2006. The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates December 31, 2006.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** DHMH general fund expenditures could increase by \$21,700 in FY 2006 for a part-time contractual employee to staff the task force. Revenues would not be affected. Future years reflect the bill’s December 31, 2006 termination date.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	21,700	11,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$21,700)	(\$11,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** A task force on men's health does not exist under statute.

**Background:** Among American men, prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer and the second leading cause of death. One in four men has some cancerous cells in the prostate by age 50, one in two men by age 80. The average age at which a man is diagnosed with prostate cancer is 72. An American man has approximately a 30% risk of having the disease and a 3% risk of dying from it.

Doctors are expected to diagnose approximately 7,600 new cases of testicular cancer in the U.S. in 2003. About 400 men are expected to die from the disease in 2003. Testicular cancer, one of the most curable forms of cancer, has a 90% cure rate.

Cardiovascular disease, disease of the heart or blood vessels, affects one in five males. In 2000, 440,175 males died from cardiovascular disease (46.5% of deaths from this disease). In the same year, more than 3 million men discharged from short stays at hospitals had cardiovascular disease listed as their first diagnosis.

Diabetes, a metabolism disorder, affects an estimated 18.2 million people, 13 million of whom are diagnosed. Approximately 1.3 million people age 20 or older are diagnosed with the disease. Between 90% and 95% of people with diabetes have Type 2 diabetes.

Approximately 18.8 million American adults have a depressive disorder, of whom 6.4 million are men.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$21,748 in fiscal 2006, which accounts for the bill's 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one half-time contractual employee to staff the task force. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, travel costs, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$15,993
Operating Expenses	<u>5,755</u>
<b>Total FY 2006 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,748</b>

Future year expenditures reflect a December 31, 2006 task force termination date.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** An identical bill, HB 205 of 2004 as amended, passed in the House but received an unfavorable report by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. HJ 8 of 2000 would have established a task force to study the utilization of health care services by men. It passed the House but received an unfavorable report by the Senate Finance Committee. A similar bill, HB 900 of 2001, was introduced in the House Environmental Matters Committee and was withdrawn.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Prostate Cancer Overview*, *MayoClinic.com*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, November 13, 2002; *What are the key statistics for testicular cancer?* American Cancer Society; *Men and Cardiovascular Diseases*, American Heart Association; *Cardiovascular disease: A blueprint for understanding the leading killer*, *MayoClinic.com*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, August 5, 2003; *Diabetes Overview*, National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, November 2003; *Mental disorders in America*, National Institute of Mental Health, January 1, 2001; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 21, 2005  
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