

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 28 (Delegate Boschert)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Task Force to Study Establishing a Veterans' Home at the Former Crownsville Hospital**

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This emergency bill establishes a Task Force to Study Establishing a Veterans' Home at the Former Crownsville Hospital. The Department of Veterans Affairs must provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2005.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) may not transfer ownership or dispose of any facility or property associated with the hospital until the recommendations of the task force have been considered.

The bill's task force provisions take effect July 1, 2005 and terminate December 31, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Department of Veterans Affairs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Due to substantially decreased utilization of the State's various psychiatric facilities, DHMH determined in 2003 that the Crownsville Hospital Center should be closed. DHMH proceeded to close the hospital in 2004 and all patients have been transferred to other hospitals.

Chapter 429 of 2004 (the budget bill) specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the State transfer the Crownsville Hospital property to Anne Arundel County. Before doing so, DHMH must undertake both an appraisal as well as a full environmental impact assessment of the property. It is not anticipated that DHMH will transfer the property to Anne Arundel County before the task force has completed its review and reported on its findings.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2005  
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Analysis by: Susan D. John

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