

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 309

(Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

This bill codifies the existing State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board staffed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Disabilities. The bill terminates September 30, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The advisory board must: (1) investigate the needs of citizens with traumatic brain injuries (TBI); (2) identify gaps in services to citizens with TBI; (3) facilitate collaboration among State agencies serving individuals with TBI; (4) facilitate collaboration among organizations and entities serving individuals with TBI; (5) encourage and facilitate community participation in program implementation; (6) issue an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 30, 2005 and each November 30 thereafter summarizing the board's actions and containing recommendations; and (7) disseminate copies of the annual report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Secretary of each department represented on the advisory board.

The report must contain recommendations for:

- providing oversight in acquiring and utilizing State and federal funds dedicated to services for individuals with TBI;
- building provider capacity and provider training that addresses the needs of individuals with TBI; and
- improving the coordination of services for individuals with TBI.

The bill does not expand the existing advisory board's duties, other than to require the board to report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The existing board is named the Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board.

Current Law: Statute does not provide for the Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board. The Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board was established in 1999 and examines the issues affecting individuals with brain injuries. The board makes policy and funding recommendations to the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Maryland is one of 13 states that received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Traumatic Brain Injury Surveillance Grant to track the incidence of TBI. In 2002, Maryland trauma centers reported admitting 5,731 individuals with TBI. However, this number does not include individuals treated in emergency rooms or in other kinds of urgent care facilities. Some trauma centers also do not consistently report the number of TBI admissions.

Background: The Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAM) received 2,700 telephone calls or e-mails with requests for information and referrals in 2004 from individuals and families in need of services: one-third from individuals with a brain injury; one-third from family members of an individual with a brain injury; and one-third from professionals looking for resources. According to BIAM, individuals aged 15 - 24 have the highest rate of TBI. The risk is twice as high for males as it is for females. TBI is the leading cause of death and disability for people under age 45.

Twenty-three other states have a legislatively mandated TBI advisory board: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

DHMH's Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) reports that nearly 1,400 individuals with a head injury are either receiving DDA services or are waiting for DDA services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None. However, SB 181 introduced in the 2003 session would have created a Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund. The bill had a hearing in the Judicial Proceedings Committee but no further action was taken. Other bills similar to SB 181 of 2003 were introduced during the 2002 and 2001 sessions. SB 306 of 2002 had a hearing in the Judicial Proceedings Committee but no further action was taken. HB 589 of 2001 was introduced in the Environmental Matters and Judiciary committees. A hearing was held but no further action was taken. That bill's cross file, SB 107, received an unfavorable report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Cross File: SB 395 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Brain Injury Association of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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