

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1499

(Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
- Mental Health Medications**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to adopt regulations that require the mental health subcommittee of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee to review the clinical appropriateness of mental health drugs, and other issues related to accessing such drugs, and recommend cost-containment initiatives,. DHMH must report by December 31, 2005 to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on steps taken by DHMH to ensure that mental health patients have access to necessary medications, including medications not on DHMH's preferred drug list.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's review and reporting requirements could be handled with existing DHMH budgeted expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee within DHMH reviews all drug classes included on a preferred drug list at least once every six months and makes recommendations regarding drug inclusion or exclusion on the preferred drug list.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Medicaid),
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 21, 2005
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 4, 2005

Analysis by: Susan D. John

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