

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 909 (Senator Britt)  
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Health and Government Operations

**Task Force to Study the Impact of Autoimmune Disease in Maryland**

This bill establishes a task force to study various aspects of autoimmune disease in Maryland, including issues such as costs, research, services and service gaps, training needs, and public awareness campaigns. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will provide staff.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates December 31, 2006.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** DHMH general fund expenditures could increase by \$24,700 in FY 2006. Future year estimates reflect annualization, inflation, and the bill’s termination date. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	24,700	12,800	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$24,700)	(\$12,800)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** The term “autoimmune disease” refers to a varied group of more than 80 serious, chronic illnesses that involve almost every human organ system. It includes diseases of the nervous, gastrointestinal, and endocrine systems as well as skin and other connective tissues, eyes, blood, and blood vessels. In all these diseases, the underlying problem is that the body’s immune system becomes misdirected, attacking the organs it was designed to protect.

There are many different autoimmune diseases. Some examples are Wegener’s granulomatosis, lupus, Crohn’s disease, multiple sclerosis, Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus, and rheumatoid arthritis. Autoimmune diseases each affect the body in different ways. For instance, the autoimmune reaction is directed against the brain in multiple sclerosis and the digestive system in Crohn’s disease. In other diseases, such as lupus, affected tissues and organs may vary among individuals with the same disease.

Many autoimmune diseases are rare. As a group, however, they affect millions of Americans. Most autoimmune diseases strike women more often than men, particularly affecting women of working age and during their childbearing years. These diseases are often chronic, requiring lifelong care and monitoring, even when the person may look or feel well. Currently few autoimmune diseases can be cured with treatment. However, many people with these diseases can live normal lives with appropriate medical care.

**State Fiscal Effect:** DHMH general fund expenditures could increase by \$24,700 in fiscal 2006, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time contractual coordinator program specialist to assist the task force with research and reports as required. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$17,549
Operating Expenses	<u>7,151</u>
<b>Total FY 2006 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$24,700</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full salary with 4.6% annual increases and 6.8% employee turnover; (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses; and (3) reflects the bill’s December 31, 2006 termination date. No effect on revenues.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1494 (Delegate Goldwater, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Family Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2005  
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Analysis by: Susan D. John

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