

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 60

(Senator Middleton)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Joint Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and Affordable
Health Care - Extension and Modifications

This bill extends the termination date for the Joint Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007. It changes the due date for the task force's report to the Governor and the General Assembly from December 31, 2005 to December 31, 2006. Further, it permits the task force to appoint additional members and form subcommittees to conduct detailed studies as necessary.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Continued task force staffing could be handled with existing Department of Legislative Services resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 280 of 2005 (House Bill 627) established the Community Health Resources Commission to oversee several new programs designed to increase access to health care for lower-income individuals. In addition, the bill created the task force to study and make recommendations on how to make quality, affordable health care,

including primary care, specialty care, hospitalization, and prescription drug coverage, accessible to all citizens of the State. The task force must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2005. Its termination date is June 1, 2006.

Background: The task force met once on January 4, 2006. Due to the complexity of the subject matter, several members suggested it would be helpful to have subcommittees that could study different approaches to expanding access to health care.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 97 – (Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 2006
M/jr

Analysis by: Susan D. John

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