

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 771

(Senators Hafer and Kelley)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

**Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee - Membership, Staffing, and
Reimbursement**

This bill modifies the membership of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee and provides reimbursement for specified committee members under specified circumstances.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) expenditures (50% general funds, 50% federal funds) could increase by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2007. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill changes the committee composition by specifying how many of certain members must be on the committee. Changes include specifying that: (1) at least 5 current or former enrollees or the parents or guardians of enrollees; and (2) at least 5 but not more than 10 advocates for Medicaid enrollees with special needs. The bill lists types of special need populations that should be represented by advocates on the committee.

In appointing consumer members to the committee, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene must seek recommendations from: (1) the State Protection and Advocacy System Organization; (2) the Statewide Independent Living Council; (3) the Developmental Disabilities Council; (4) the Department of Disabilities; (5) the Department of Aging; (6) consumer advocacy organizations; and (7) the public.

DHMH must provide staffing for the committee. The committee chair and staff must provide the agenda, minutes, and any written material to committee members at least five days prior to the meeting. Upon request, DHMH must provide for a dedicated department staff person to review meeting materials with enrollee members in advance of a meeting and to provide referrals to advocacy organizations.

A committee member is entitled to reimbursement for expenses for personal and dependent care, cognitive supports, and appropriate transportation to and from the meeting.

Current Law: The Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee is composed of no more than 25 members, the majority of whom are enrollees or enrollee advocates. Membership types are specified in law, but do not require a certain number of each type of committee member representation. In making committee appointments, the Secretary must provide for continuity and rotation. A committee member may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

State Fiscal Effect: DHMH expenditures (50% general funds, 50% federal funds) could increase by a minimal amount, beginning in fiscal 2007, depending on the composition of the Medicaid Advisory Committee and their needs for cognitive supports; dependent and personal care; and transportation in order to attend the committee meetings. The bill requires DHMH to provide reimbursements to committee members who are also Medicaid enrollees for these types of support. The committee meets about 12 times annually in the Baltimore region. There are insufficient data available to determine any personal or dependant care, cognitive support needs, or transportation costs any committee member could require. Revenues would not be affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1330 (Delegate Hubbard) – Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2006
mam/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 2006

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