

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 4 (Delegate Mandel, *et al.*)

Rules and Executive Nominations

ICE Designation on Cell Phones

This joint resolution urges all cell phone users to add the ICE (In Case of Emergency) designation in their cell phone directories next to the names of individuals who could provide vital information in time of crisis.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Compliance with this joint resolution would not materially affect governmental finances. The extent to which emergency services personnel would benefit from widespread use of ICE designations cannot be reliably predicted or quantified.

Local Effect: See above.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: One of the difficulties long faced by emergency services personnel is how to locate next of kin for (or obtain other necessary information about) a victim who is unconscious, dead, or otherwise unable to respond to questions. Even if the victim is carrying one or more forms of identification which have remained with him (such as a driver's license), those items do not necessarily provide information about where and how relatives or other interested parties can be reached, resulting in delays as officials try to track those people down through ancillary details.

This issue has been addressed through a variety of means over the years, as many people have taken to carrying lists of emergency contacts (and vital medical details) in their purses and wallets, or wearing items such as bracelets and necklaces with such information engraved on them. Some paramedic advocates (including the one in Britain cited in the resolution) store emergency contact information in their cell phone address books, and urge others to do so also.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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