

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1295

(Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations and Appropriations      Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Health Occupations - Cultural Competency Workgroup**

---

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to convene a workgroup that will develop recommendations for requiring individuals licensed by the health occupations boards to receive instruction in cultural competency as part of the licensure or license renewal process. The workgroup consists of individuals from each health occupations board and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. A report with recommendations is due by January 1, 2007. The health occupations boards must provide staff support for the workgroup.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006 and terminates June 30, 2007.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The health occupations boards could staff the workgroup with existing personnel and resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Background:** In response to documented racial and ethnic disparities in health care services, Chapters 319 and 443 of 2004 established the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to develop a statewide plan to systematically address the issue. The

office formed four committees to identify recommendations for inclusion in the State plan, including a committee on health professional education. In a December 2005 report, the committee recommended that Maryland's institutions for health care professionals be required to incorporate health disparities coursework and continuing medical education in their licensure and re-licensure requirements. The committee also recommended that successful health professional education programs at institutions of higher education be replicated and that cultural competency curricula in the institutions be required, rather than elective.

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the development of the Cultural Competency Curriculum Modules (CCCMs) to equip physicians with the cultural and linguistic competencies required to improve the quality of care for minority, immigrant, and ethnically diverse communities. In December 2004, the interactive online curriculum of the CCCM was made available at no cost to the public.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, University System of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2006  
ncs/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - April 3, 2006

---

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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