

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

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

Senate Bill 715

(Senator Hollinger)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee - Duties**

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This bill requires the Department of Disabilities' Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee to make recommendations on implementing a public registry for personal care workers to the department.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee, created by Chapter 439 of 2005, provides guidance to the department on personal care, attendant care, and home care services. The guidance can include: • the development of standards for training personal care workers; • the feasibility of establishing a referral system of individual providers; • the feasibility of establishing a registry for personal care workers; and • compensation levels provided to personal care workers for personal assistance services.

**Background:** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene operates several programs that provide personal care to individuals. The Medicaid Personal Care Program offers personal care services to individuals with disabilities. The Medicaid Living-at-Home Waiver offers services that include personal assistance, skilled nursing supervision, assistive technology, and personal emergency response systems. The Individual Support Services program offers services that include help with home skills, respite services, environmental modifications, adaptive equipment, and transportation.

The Department of Legislative Services estimates there are 10,000 home care providers working in Maryland.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1038 (Delegate Mandel, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Disabilities, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2006  
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Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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