

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 911 (Senator Jones)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Higher Education - University of Maryland Medical System - Subject to State
Access to Public Records Law**

This bill provides that the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. UMMS is not a State agency.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: UMMS is an independent, nonprofit organization that is not a State agency, political subdivision, public body, or public corporation. UMMS is not subject to any provision of law affecting only governmental or public entities. Under the Maryland Public Information Act, an agency or entity subject to the Act must permit inspection of its records at a reasonable time, except in a limited number of specified situations.

Background: In September 2006 and January 2007, letters were sent by the Maryland Minority Contractors Association, Inc. (MMCA) to the Board of Public Works and the Office of the Attorney General alleging that UMMS had violated Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise regulations. The letters allege that UMMS has not extended

invitations for bids to minority-owned businesses and has restricted the bidding to businesses owned by nonminorities in violation of State law. Subjecting UMMS to the Maryland Public Information Act could presumably allow for closer scrutiny of its bid solicitation and procurement processes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1373 (Delegate Tarrant) – Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2007
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