

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 793

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

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Sickle Cell Disease - Statewide Steering Committee on Services for Adults with  
Sickle Cell Disease

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This bill establishes the Statewide Steering Committee on Services for Adults with Sickle Cell Disease. The committee must • establish institution and community partnerships; • establish a statewide network of stakeholders who care for individuals with sickle cell disease (SCD); and • educate individuals with SCD, the public, and health care providers about the State options for care of SCD. The steering committee also must seek grant funding • to develop and establish a case management system for adults with SCD; • establish an adult SCD day infusion center; • develop, implement, and lead a State comprehensive education and treatment program for adults with sickle cell disease; and • develop and implement a health care provider awareness and education campaign to increase provider awareness of health care disparities, community dynamics, cultural practice, behavioral and psychosocial issues, and the use of standardized treatment and emergency room protocols.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$195,800 in FY 2008 to staff the steering committee. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. FY 2009 expenditures reflect an additional \$100,000 to contract for a web-based education program with \$10,000 annually in the following years for maintenance costs. Potentially significant increase in federal and special fund revenues beginning in FY 2008 to the extent the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is eligible for and receives federal and nonprofit grants for the bill's purposes.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
SF Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
FF Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
GF Expenditure	195,800	345,300	267,600	280,700	294,500
Net Effect	(\$195,800)	(\$345,300)	(\$267,600)	(\$280,700)	(\$294,500)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Meaningful for any small businesses awarded grants by DHMH beginning in FY 2009.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 358 of 2006 required DHMH, consulting with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and stakeholders, to report on adult sickle cell anemia in Maryland to specified legislative committees by December 1, 2006.

**Background:** The bill implements some of the recommendations of DHMH's report, *The Study of Adult Sickle Cell Disease in Maryland*, released in 2006. According to the report, there are approximately 1,700 adult patients in Maryland with SCD and African Americans are the largest high-risk group in the State – approximately one in 400 African Americans have the disease and 1 in 10 are disease carriers. SCD is an inherited blood disorder characterized by anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, progressive organ damage, and a shortened life span. There currently is no cure for most people with this disease.

The report's recommendations include • establishing a statewide SCD steering committee; • further developing the State's only comprehensive SCD treatment center, the Sickle Cell Center for Adults at Johns Hopkins; • establishing an ongoing SCD provider educational program; • establishing a case management network to assist patients and support primary care physicians; • establishing a 24 hour, 7 day a week on-call consultant service; and • developing a web-based repository for patient electronic medical records.

To implement all its recommendations, the report states that general fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$2.2 million in the first year of implementation and approximately \$1.9 million annually in future years. However, DHMH advises that this estimate only assumes the costs of the medical interventions, not the associated administrative costs for DHMH to then deliver those interventions.

**State Revenues:** Federal and special fund revenues could increase beginning in fiscal 2008 if DHMH is eligible and receives grants for a case management system for adults with sickle cell disease and for an adult sickle cell disease day infusion center. NIH awards have been approximately \$500,000 for both adult and pediatric care, DHMH advises. DHMH also may be eligible to receive other federal and nonprofit grants for the bill's purposes. However, the amount of any such grants cannot be reliably determined at this time.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$195,759 in fiscal 2008, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2007 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time physician program manager to oversee the medical aspects of the SCD initiative, analyze data, and work with the health educator and academic partners on the educational programs; one community health educator to prepare and implement provider cultural competency training, develop content for and update web site, and prepare and execute plan to publicize program services; one coordinator of special programs to staff the steering committee and prepare reports; and one administrative specialist to provide staff support. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$171,023
Operating Expenses	<u>24,736</u>
<b>Total FY 2008 Administrative Expenditures</b>	<b>\$195,759</b>
Positions	3.5

Future year expenditures reflect • \$100,000 in fiscal 2009 to contract for a web-based education program for providers and people with sickle cell disease and \$10,000 annually thereafter in maintenance costs; • full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and • 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** *The Study of Adult Sickle Cell Disease in Maryland*, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2006; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2007  
mll/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 3, 2007  
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