

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 797 (Delegate Frush)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**Study of Health Care Services for Children with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions**

This bill requires the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to jointly study the current services and potential care delivery alternatives for caring for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007. The council and commission must report the study's results to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2007.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MHCC general fund expenditures could increase by \$30,000 in FY 2008 to hire a contractor to collect the required data and perform the analysis for the study. No effect on future year expenditures. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	30,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$30,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** As part of the study, the council and commission must:

- describe the extent to which, under Medicaid and private health insurance or similar benefits, these children are currently receiving appropriate and timely palliative care services;
- analyze the impact in states that adopted the Children's Hospice International Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families (CHI PACC) or other palliative care demonstration projects;
- consult with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Hospice Network of Maryland, the Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition of Maryland, health care provider organizations, and others in connection with the study; and
- present appropriate and feasible recommendations to improve health care services for these children.

**Current Law:** MHCC, formed by the 1999 merger of the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, has the purpose of improving access to affordable health care; reporting information relevant to the availability, cost, and quality of health care statewide; and developing sets of benefits included in the Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan. MHCC is an independent commission within DHMH.

The duties of the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life include

- monitoring trends in care to Marylanders with life-threatening illnesses; and
- providing recommendations to the Office of the Attorney General, DHMH, the Maryland Department of Aging, and other State agencies regarding activities affecting the care at the end of life.

**Background:** CHI PACC is a program developed by Children's Hospice International, a nonprofit organization that promotes hospice support through pediatric care facilities and encourages including children in existing and developing hospice, palliative, and home care programs. CHI PACC allows a child to receive comfort care at home while being treated for his/her life-threatening condition.

**State Expenditures:** MHCC general fund expenditures could increase by \$30,000 in fiscal 2008 only to hire a contractor to collect and analyze the required health data for the required study. MHCC advises that existing staff could not collect the required data and perform the analysis because staff with the necessary expertise are overextended with existing duties and would not be able to perform the bill's functions as well.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2007  
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Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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