

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 938

(Senator Hooper, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Injury Reports - Workgroup

This bill establishes a workgroup to develop recommendations regarding the current requirement that specified health care professionals in 10 counties must report an injury caused or showing evidence as having been caused by an automobile accident or a lethal weapon to the county sheriff, the county police, or the Department of State Police (DSP). The workgroup consists of members of the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland State Medical Society, DSP, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and other stakeholders. Specifically, the workgroup must consider • whether the reporting requirement should be extended statewide; • health care providers or other individuals who should be subject to the requirement; • the types of injuries that should be reported; and • the penalties for failing to file a report. A report on the workgroup's recommendations is due to specified legislative committees by December 1, 2007.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for workgroup members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. It is assumed that existing DSP and/or DHMH staff will write the required report.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A physician, pharmacist, dentist, or nurse in a specified county who treats an individual for an injury that was caused by, or shows evidence as, having been caused by an automobile accident or a lethal weapon, or the individual in charge of the hospital that provides the treatment, must notify the county sheriff, the county police, or the DSP as soon as practicable. This applies in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Charles, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico counties.

An injury report must include • the injured individual's name and address, if known; • a description of the injury; and • any facts concerning the matter that might assist in detecting crime. An individual who fails to make such a report is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a maximum \$25 fine.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Somerset County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 20, 2007
mll/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 1, 2007

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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