

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 599

(Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

The Baby Boomer Initiative Act

This bill establishes a Baby Boomer Initiative Council staffed by the University of Maryland's College of Health and Human Performance in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins Institutions. The University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Institutions representatives on the council must initiate a study documenting the economic and social impact of older workers' roles in the economy and in the community.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2007 and terminates on December 31, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is anticipated that participation, evaluation, and staffing requirements could be handled with existing resources. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes a Baby Boomer Initiative Council consisting of representatives of State government and appointed members of the business, education, and aging communities, with the chair designated by the Governor. The charge of the council includes:

- developing recommendations for addressing the needs of the baby boomer population;
- making recommendations for using baby boomers as a source of social capital;
- making recommendations to the Maryland Department of Aging on outreach to business, nonprofit organizations, and State agencies;
- making recommendations for multigenerational civic activities for baby boomers following their exit from career-track work; and
- studying and documenting health benefits derived from baby boomers' active engagement in intergenerational civic activities.

The bill requires the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Institutions representatives on the council to initiate a study documenting the economic and social impact of older workers. By December 31, 2008, and each year thereafter, the council is required to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill terminates December 31, 2011.

Background: Individuals born between 1946 and 1964 are generally referred to as the baby boomer generation. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 78 million baby boomers in the United States as of July 1, 2005. According to the Census Bureau, an estimated 7,918 people turned 60 years old each day in 2006, equivalent to 330 people each hour.

State Fiscal Effect: The departments whose representatives would serve on this council have advised that their participation could be accommodated with existing resources. In addition, the University System of Maryland does not anticipate a fiscal effect associated with the required study of the economic and social impact of older workers or staffing of the council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 700 (Senator Dyson) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, University System of Maryland, Maryland Department of Aging, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Legislative Services

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