

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Special Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 10 (Senators Mooney and Harris)
 Budget and Taxation

**Baltimore City - AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program
 - Funding**

The bill converts the existing AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program in the Baltimore City Health Department from a mandated pilot program to an authorized program. The bill prohibits State funds to be used for the program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would decrease by \$290,900 in FY 2009. Future year savings assume the relatively flat level of funding that has been targeted to the program in recent years.

(in dollars)	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	(290,900)	(290,900)	(290,900)	(290,900)	(290,900)
Net Effect	\$290,900	\$290,900	\$290,900	\$290,900	\$290,900

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City revenues would decrease by \$290,900 in FY 2008 and in future years.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than one million people nationwide were living with HIV/AIDS in 2006. In Maryland, a total of 29,818 people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2005, with Baltimore-Towson having the second highest incident AIDS case report rate of any major metropolitan area.

HIV is spread in part through injection drug use (IDU) because it often involves sharing drug equipment. IDU has been a leading risk factor for AIDS in Baltimore City since 1989. In 2005, IDU accounted for 25.3% of HIV cases in Maryland and 33.9% of cases in Baltimore City.

Chapter 360 of 1994 established an AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program in the Baltimore City Health Department. The program exchanges clean needles and syringes for used ones, educates participants about the dangers of contracting HIV infection through needle sharing practices, and refers participants to substance abuse treatment programs. The program was scheduled to sunset in 1997. However, Chapter 178 of 1997 repealed the sunset and continued the requirement of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to submit an annual report concerning program activity and expenditures.

DHMH submitted its most recent report in February 2007. According to the report, the program is funded through a combination of city general funds and DHMH funds via the AIDS Administration. In fiscal 2008, the program is expected to receive \$519,856 from city general funds and \$290,860 from the AIDS Administration.

The report also includes the following evaluation findings:

- HIV incidence decreased 35% among injecting substance abuse users participating in the program compared to injecting substance abuse users in surrounding counties;
- HIV-positive participants attending the program were three times more likely to enter a detoxification program; and
- since the program's inception, HIV incidence in Baltimore has decreased from 60.3% in 1995 to 40.4% in 2004.

Information on program evaluation dates back to extensive work completed in June 2000 that was conducted through the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. That evaluation found that the needle exchange program was effective in reducing the

incidence of HIV, improving participation in a detoxification program, reducing high-risk behaviors, did not lead to any increase in crime, and had community support.

Another AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program was authorized by Chapter 251 of 1998 in the Prince George's County Health Department. However, the health department does not currently operate such a program.

State Expenditures: According to DHMH, fiscal 2001 was the first year that general funds were used to support the Baltimore City program. Since then, general fund expenditures targeted to the program have been relatively stable, at about \$290,900 per year. General fund expenditures thus could decrease by \$290,900 annually beginning in fiscal 2009.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Baltimore City, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - November 1, 2007
mll/jr

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