

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 271 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Medical Review Committees

This departmental bill broadens the definition of “medical review committee” to include the Maryland Health Care Commission.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that the bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: A medical review committee • evaluates and seeks to improve the quality of health care provided by health care providers; • evaluates the need for and the level of performance of health care provided by health care providers; • evaluates the qualification, competence, and performance of health care providers; or • evaluates and acts on matters that relate to the discipline of any health care provider. A medical review committee can be a State or federal entity, a health care provider professional association,

a professional standard review organization, or other group permitted by law. There are 14 types of entities afforded medical review committee status.

Generally, a medical review committee's proceedings, records, and files are confidential and not admissible or discoverable. However, if a civil action is brought by a party to a medical review committee's proceedings who claims to be aggrieved by the committee's decision, the records and files would be subject to discovery.

Background: The Maryland Health Care Commission develops and carries out new health policies including

- developing a database on all nonhospital health care services;
- developing the comprehensive standard health benefit plan for small employers;
- monitoring the fiscal impact of State mandated benefits;
- developing quality and performance measures for health maintenance organizations;
- developing quality and performance measures for hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, and nursing homes;
- overseeing electronic claims clearinghouses;
- directing and administering State health planning functions to produce the State Health Plan for Facilities and Services; and
- conducting the Certificate of Need Program for regulated entities.

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 - January 28, 2008
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