

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 861 (Senators Conway and Exum)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Abuse of Performance-Enhancing Substances

This bill creates a Task Force to Study Abuse of Performance-Enhancing Substances, staffed by the Department of Legislative Services. The task force has to make recommendations regarding • the enhancement of State and local health department initiatives regarding performance-enhancing substances; • the enhancement of school curricula regarding performance-enhancing substances; and • methods to educate physicians, parents, coaches, and others regarding performance-enhancing substances. An interim report with findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 30, 2008, and final report is due by July 31, 2009. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008 and terminates June 30, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force member are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources. The Department of Legislative Services should be able to provide staffing with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland law does not specifically address performance-enhancing drugs and substances.

Background: Synthetic anabolic steroids are synthetic modifications of testosterone, which increase muscle mass and strength. These hormones have many medical uses, which include replacement therapy for men deficient in testosterone, helping people with AIDS maintain muscle mass and reduce muscle wasting, and treating rare types of anemia. Anabolic steroid use is legal only with a doctor's prescription.

Steroid use among teens has become a growing concern. Results from the 2007 Monitoring and Future Study show that 1.5% of eighth graders, 1.8% of tenth graders, and 2.2% of twelfth graders reported using steroids illegally at least once in their lifetimes. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System showed that 4% of all high school students reported using steroids illegally at least once in their lifetime.

In 2007, the Maryland State Department of Education and St. Joseph Medical Center launched an awareness campaign to educate Maryland middle- and high-school students, parents, coaches, and teachers about the side effects, dangers, and alternatives to anabolic steroids and supplements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1044 (Delegate Frank, *et al.*) – Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland State Department of Education, Mayo Clinic, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Department of Legislative Services

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mcp/ljm

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