

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 453 (Delegate Hammen, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Advisory Committee to Coordinate the Public Health System and Drug
Treatment Funded by the Medical Assistance Program

This bill establishes an Advisory Committee to Coordinate the Public Health System and Drug Treatment Funded by the Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid), staffed by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration and Medicaid.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008 and terminates June 30, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for committee members and staffing costs for ADAA and Medicaid are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The advisory committee must make recommendations to enhance coordination between the public health system and the drug treatment system funded by Medicaid including methods to • facilitate enrollment in Medicaid for individuals in need of substance abuse treatment; • use data from both the public health system and Medicaid for quality improvement and oversight; and • reduce barriers to care in Medicaid, including issues related to reimbursement rates, denial of claims, and prior approval.

By June 1 each year, the advisory committee has to report its recommendations to the Governor and specified standing committees. A member of the advisory committee may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

Background: The Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council was established by executive order as part of a comprehensive strategy to coordinate substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The council comprises key State cabinet Secretaries, judges, legislators, and citizens. The council prepares and annually updates a two-year strategic plan that identifies priorities for the delivery and funding of services to the State. Other responsibilities include • identifying potential funding sources and disseminating information about these funding opportunities to local drug and alcohol abuse councils; • identifying promising practices in substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment; • conducting annual surveys of federal and State funds used in Maryland for substance abuse prevention and treatment; • identifying and determining emerging needs; and • serving as a repository for studies and evaluations of State and local programs.

In fiscal 2006, 47,527 patients were admitted to ADAA-funded substance abuse treatment programs, while an additional 23,144 patients were treated in non-ADAA-funded programs.

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 - February 22, 2008
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

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