

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 286

(Senator Gladden)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Public Health - Antibiotic-Resistant Infection Prevention Campaign**

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This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in collaboration with other State agencies, to establish and promote a public awareness campaign on antibiotic-resistant infections. Campaign implementation is subject to the availability and appropriation of funding.

The bill terminates September 30, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by at least \$57,400 in FY 2009, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2008 effective date. Future years reflect annualization, inflation, and the bill's termination date of September 30, 2010.

(in dollars)	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	57,400	78,000	19,900	0	0
Net Effect	(\$57,400)	(\$78,000)	(\$19,900)	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The campaign established by the Secretary has to:

- develop and disseminate educational materials about the causes and symptoms of antibiotic-resistant infections, including Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus and methods to reduce the transmission of antibiotic-resistant infections, including proper hand washing techniques and the use of antibacterial products;
- distribute the educational materials free of charge to health facilities, health clinics, schools, and any other organization the Secretary considers appropriate to receive the materials;
- disseminate information about the dangers of antibiotic-resistant infections and methods to reduce the transmission of antibiotic-resistant infections through written materials, posters, or any other medium the Secretary considers appropriate or effective; and
- include any other matter that the Secretary considers appropriate.

If the Secretary requests campaign aid or information from a State agency or political subdivision, the agency or subdivision has to fulfill the request.

**Current Law:** The Secretary adopts rules and regulations to prevent

- the introduction of an infectious or contagious disease into the State or other disease that endangers public health; or
- the spread of an infectious or contagious disease that endangers the public health in the State.

**Background:** *Staphylococcus aureus* is a leading cause of bloodstream and other invasive infections. MRSA is bacteria that are resistant to certain antibiotics. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among people in hospitals and health care facilities (such as nursing homes and dialysis centers) who have weakened immune systems. Invasive MRSA infections occur in approximately 94,000 persons nationally each year and are associated with approximately 19,000 deaths. Of these infections, about 86% are health care associated and 14% are community associated.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$57,375 in fiscal 2009, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2008 effective date. This estimate reflects printing costs (\$76,500 annually) for educational pamphlets and other printed materials that will be distributed to health facilities, health clinics, schools, and any other organization the Secretary considers appropriate. Costs could be greater if other media, such as broadcast, are used. Future years reflect annualization, 2% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses, and the bill's September 30, 2010 termination date.

## **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 - March 3, 2008  
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