

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 20

(Delegate Sophocleus, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Intellectual Disability (Rosa's Law)

This bill replaces the term “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability” in the State code. All related references are also replaced. The change in terminology effectively renames State facilities and residential centers that include the term “mentally retarded” or “mental retardation.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Affected State agencies can handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources as signage does not have to be replaced and the bill specifies that all existing documents reflecting the prior terminology must be exhausted before new documents may be used.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: “Mental retardation” means a developmental disability that is evidenced by significantly subaverage intellectual functioning and impairment in the adaptive behavior of an individual.

Background: In 2008, the Virginia legislature passed a bill to replace the term “mentally retarded” or “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability” in the state code. At the federal level, in 2003, the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation was renamed the President’s Committee on Intellectual Disabilities by executive order.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Juvenile Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Register of Wills; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Sarah K. Volker

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