

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 63 (Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
 Health and Mental Hygiene)
 Finance Health and Government Operations

Oral Health Safety Net Program - Sunset Repeal

This departmental bill repeals the September 30, 2011 termination date for the Oral Health Safety Net Program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$1.3 million in FY 2012 and future years to continue issuing grants. This estimate is based on the FY 2009 appropriation of \$1.3 million for the program. The current program termination date of 2011 leaves FY 2010 and 2011 unaffected by this legislation. No effect on revenues.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	0	1.3	1.3	1.3
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	(\$1.3)	(\$1.3)	(\$1.3)

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

Local Effect: Local health departments awarded grants under this program could continue to receive grant funding after the program’s 2011 termination date.

Small Business Effect: DHMH has determined that this bill has a meaningful impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 527 of 2007 established an Oral Health Safety Net Program within DHMH’s Office of Oral Health to award grants to local health departments,

federally qualified health centers, and entities providing dental services within State facilities to increase dental provider capacity for the underserved. The law also requires the Office of Oral Health to annually evaluate the program and report the results to the Governor and the General Assembly. In addition, DHMH has to conduct a statewide follow-up survey on the oral health of Maryland school children by June 1, 2011.

Chapter 527 also includes intent language that grants be awarded in fiscal 2009 and continue in fiscal 2010 and 2011 if the office determines that the grantee is fulfilling the conditions of the grant. Grant funding in fiscal 2012 and beyond is not specified as Chapter 527 terminates September 30, 2011.

Background: Access to dental care is a problem for many low-income children in Maryland. A report released in 2008 by the University of Maryland Dental School showed that 31% of children in kindergarten and third grade had untreated primary tooth decay. Untreated tooth decay can lead to pain, malnutrition, other medical complications, and school absences.

The fiscal 2009 budget includes \$1.345 million for the program. The office submitted its most recent program report on September 17, 2008. The report notes that the office issued one capital grant to the Worcester County Health Department and operational grants to the Worcester County Health Department, the Calvert Memorial Hospital, and the Kent and Queen Anne's County Health Department partnership. The office also issued targeted grants to local health departments and other health facilities to provide new or expanded dental services, and is working with Prince George's County Health Department to award a "wellmobile" grant to a local nonprofit dental community organization.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$1.345 million in fiscal 2012 assuming grant funding continues at the fiscal 2009 level. In addition, the estimate assumes that the termination repeal overrides the intent language included in Chapter 527 regarding grant funding for specified fiscal years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Garrett County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Montgomery County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2009
ncs/mwc

Analysis by: Sarah K. Volker

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Oral Health Safety Net Program – Sunset Repeal

BILL NUMBER: SB 63

PREPARED BY: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
(Office of the Inspector General)

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.