

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 705

(Delegates Pena-Melnyk and Ivey)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Child Fatality Review - Child Death Review Case Reporting System

This bill authorizes State Child Fatality Review Team members and staff to provide identifying information about any child protection case to the National Center for Child Death Review according to a data use agreement. The data agreement must authorize access to identifiable information only to the members and staff of the State team, authorize the center to access only de-identified information, and require the center to act as a fiduciary agent of the State and local teams. Information provided to the center is confidential and subject to the same protections that apply to the State and local teams.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is a State Child Fatality Review Team, and local child fatality review teams representing each county. The State Child Fatality Review Team's purpose is to prevent child deaths by developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths; developing plans for and implementing changes within the agencies on the team to prevent child deaths; and advising the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public on changes to law, policy, and practice to prevent child deaths. State team members and staff may not disclose to any person or government official any identifying information about any child protection case.

Local child fatality review teams promote coordination among agencies involved in investigating child deaths and providing services to surviving family members; develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths in the county; develop plans for and recommend changes within the agencies the members represent to prevent child deaths; and advise the State team on changes to law, policy, or practice to prevent child deaths.

Background: The National Center for Child Death Review is a resource center for state and local child death review programs and is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The center offers its case reporting system as well as training and technical assistance to states at no cost.

In 2007, the infant mortality rate in Maryland was 8 deaths per 1,000 live births, slightly higher than the 2006 rate of 7.9. The infant mortality rate was 4.6 among whites, 14.0 among blacks, and 3.8 among Hispanics.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 862 (Senator Pugh) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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