

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 858 (Delegate Smigiel, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Government - Advisory Committees - Appointment of Members

This bill requires the Governor or a member of the Executive Branch that appoints members to a specified advisory committee to take appropriate steps to assure that appointed members represent a fair and balanced range of viewpoints, and that the advice and recommendations of the advisory committee are (1) not inappropriately influenced by the Governor, Executive Branch agency, or any special interest and (2) the result of the advisory committee's independent judgment. An advisory committee is any committee, board, commission, council, panel, task force, work group, or similar group established by law, or an Executive Branch agency for which the Governor or a member of an Executive Branch agency appoints members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Requirements related to appointment of members of advisory committees (as specified in the bill) established by law, and the advice and recommendations of the committees, generally are specified in legislation authorizing a committee.

Members of a board (defined under State ethics law as an executive unit comprised of at least two members, all of whom are appointed and serve on a part-time basis) can be

subject to State ethics requirements, including conflict of interest and financial disclosure requirements. Board members, however, may be exempted, or made subject to modified requirements, by the State Ethics Commission for specified reasons. An exemption generally may only be granted on written request of the executive unit involved.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Governor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2009
mam/mcr

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