

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 349 (Washington County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

Finance

Washington County - Mental Health Advisory Committee

This bill allows the governing body of Washington County to designate the Washington County Mental Health Agency, Inc., the county's core service agency, as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal expenditure reduction for Washington County because it will not be required to maintain two separate mental health advisory entities.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The governing body of each county must establish a mental health advisory committee to serve as an advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages. The governing bodies of two counties may establish an intercounty mental health advisory committee if the population of one of the counties is too small to warrant establishing a community mental health program for that county and if the State Director of Mental Hygiene consents. The governing body of a county may establish a joint mental health and addictions advisory committee.

Background: Chapter 376 of 2005 allowed Baltimore City to designate Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc., the city's core service agency, as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the city. Chapter 62 of 2004 allowed Howard County to

designate a quasi-public authority (the Howard County Mental Health Authority) as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the county. Chapter 272 of 2007 allowed the governing body of Anne Arundel County to designate the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc., the county's core service agency, as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2009
ncs/mwc

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