

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 419 (Delegate Hubbard)
 Health and Government Operations

Finance

Wellness Report Card Pilot Program

This bill establishes a Wellness Report Card Pilot Program, funded by private or federal grants, to identify key wellness and prevention issues in selected Maryland counties and to provide a report comparing counties and identifying the most important wellness issues. The entity designated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish the wellness report card must determine which counties in the State will be involved. The University of Maryland School of Public Health, using existing staff, must provide a forum for stakeholders to collaborate on enhancing the health and well-being of residents in the pilot program counties, analyze results of the report card, develop solutions to the wellness issues identified by the program, and ensure effective implementation and evaluation of programs to address health promotion and disease prevention issues identified by the pilot program.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2009, and terminates September 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expenditures related to the pilot program, which are dependent on federal or private funding, increase by \$20,900 in FY 2010 to hire one part-time contractual employee to administer the Wellness Report Card Pilot Program. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, inflation, and regular salary increases. The University of Maryland School of Public Health advises that it can perform the assigned responsibilities with existing personnel. Any additional costs for the university can be covered using currently accessible discretionary foundation funds. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Exp.	20,900	22,600	23,500	24,500	25,500
Net Effect	(\$20,900)	(\$22,600)	(\$23,500)	(\$24,500)	(\$25,500)

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

Local Effect: If local governments and health departments implement any programs to address issues identified by the Wellness Report Card Pilot Program, expenditures increase accordingly for the counties included in the program.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A number of programs, commissions, and councils address health issues and related behaviors. Some examples include the State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness, the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program, the Maryland Commission for Men’s Health, and the Committee on Childhood Obesity.

State Fiscal Effect: To comply with the bill’s requirement that the Wellness Report Card Pilot Program be funded by private or federal grants, the following costs are contingent on the receipt of grant funding. Assuming that funding for the program is secured, fiscal 2010 expenditures increase by \$20,914 for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to hire one part-time contractual employee to gather data, conduct analyses, and report on the wellness issues that need to be addressed in the counties included in the program. The estimate includes a part-time salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$15,554
Operating Expenses	1,800
Start-up Costs	<u>3,560</u>
Total Fiscal 2010 Expenditures	\$20,914

The estimate assumes a part-time contractual salary with 4.4% annual increases, 6.8% employee turnover, and 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Somerset counties; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; University System of Maryland; University of Maryland Medical System; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2009
ncs/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2009
Revised - Updated Information - April 10, 2009
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