

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 531

(Delegate Reznik, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health, Education, and Social Services by
State Agencies - Extension**

This bill changes the membership of the Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies, expands its scope to include procurement of education services, and extends its authorization for two years until June 30, 2012. It also requires the Board of Public Works (BPW) to provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its preliminary findings and recommendations by November 30, 2010, and its final findings and recommendations by November 30, 2011.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. Thus, the requirement to staff the task force and develop the reports may not be absorbable within BPW's existing budgeted resources. Instead, general fund expenditures may increase minimally for contractual staff to support the task force and complete the required reports.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapters 438 and 439 of 2008 established the task force to:

- evaluate and make recommendations regarding the methods used by State agencies to procure the delivery of health and social services;
- examine and make recommendations regarding State agencies' timeliness in preparing and issuing specified reports and in making payments to contractors;
- examine and make recommendations regarding possible standardization of contracting processes; and
- identify and make recommendations regarding other issues affecting the efficiency and cost of procuring health and social services.

The departments represented on the task force provide staff for it.

A preliminary report was due by November 30, 2008, but no members of the task force had been appointed by that time. In its first meeting on October 6, 2009, the task force was briefed by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations and concluded that an all-encompassing problem is a lack of consistency in procurement processes among various agencies.

The task force recommended a two-year extension to complete its work.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Human Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of General Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Comptroller's Office, Department of Juvenile Services, Maryland State Treasurer's Office, Department of Legislative Services

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