

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 851

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Finance

Maryland Health Improvement and Disease Prevention Act

This bill establishes a Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Improvement and Disease Prevention, staffed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), to consider incentives to help State residents improve their health and mitigate the risk of debilitating disease. The commission has to make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2011. Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010, and terminates June 30, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. Thus, the requirement to staff the commission and develop and report recommendations is not absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of DHMH. Instead, general fund expenditures increase minimally in FY 2011 for contractual staff to support the additional activities within the allocated timeframe. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 705 of 2009 received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee; however, no further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2010
ncs/mwc

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