

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 862 (Delegate Hubbard)  
Health and Government Operations

---

**Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations - Membership and Sunset  
Repeal**

---

This bill repeals the May 31, 2010 termination date for the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations. Instead of the Med Chi physician on the commission acting as the chair, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with Med Chi, must appoint the chair of the commission. In addition, the term of a commission member is set at three years. The commission's charge is also adjusted to require the commission to study and make recommendations about immunizations required of children entering schools at any time, not just in times of vaccine shortages, and to make recommendations regarding a public education campaign in the event of a public health emergency involving immunizations.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal general fund expenditures for the commission are maintained beyond FY 2010. The additional study requirements can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations has to determine where community vaccine shortages exist, which vaccines are in short supply, and develop a recommendation for a plan for the equitable distribution of vaccines. In addition, the commission has to study and make recommendations about other related issues, including immunizations required of children entering schools in times of vaccine shortage; all available options for the purchasing of vaccines, including the development of a universal vaccine purchasing system or a similar program to increase access to necessary vaccines for the State; an update on the status of the use of thimerosal in vaccines including the availability and affordability of thimerosal-free vaccines, and any other issue related to the use of thimerosal in vaccines; elimination of any vaccine distribution disparities; a public education campaign in the event of a vaccine shortage; the availability and affordability of adult and childhood vaccines; and strategies to increase immunizations among those adults and children recommended to receive immunizations, including catch-up immunizations.

Annually, by December 15, the commission has to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified legislative committees. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must staff the commission.

The commission was established in 2002 and was originally set to terminate May 31, 2005, but the termination date has been extended two times since then. The Med Chi physician on the commission acts as chair of the commission, and no term length for commission members is established in statute.

---

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** While not cross files, HB 532 and HB 411 both extend the termination date of the commission.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2010  
mlm/mwc

---

Analysis by: Erin McMullen

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510