

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 52

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
Disabilities)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Department of Disabilities - Maryland Commission on Disabilities - Duties and
Responsibilities

This departmental bill requires the Secretary of Disabilities to request that the Interagency Disabilities Board revise the State Disabilities Plan every four years. The bill increases membership on the Maryland Commission on Disabilities by requiring the Governor to appoint an individual with a developmental disability in addition to an individual with an intellectual disability to the commission. The bill terminates the Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee and moves the scope of its work to the Maryland Commission on Disabilities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in general fund expenditures beginning in FY 2011 due to travel reimbursement expenses no longer required with the termination of the Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MDOD evaluates programs and services for Maryland citizens with disabilities. It coordinates and supports public and private agencies serving people with disabilities, provides information and referrals, and identifies and recommends ways to improve services.

The Interagency Disabilities Board was established to develop the State Disabilities Plan. The board consists of 13 *ex officio* members and representatives of State government agencies whom the Governor may designate.

The State Disabilities Plan must include the coordination of support services that:

- assure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other relevant federal and State provisions to protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities;
- are necessary for an individual with a disability to achieve maximum participation in the mainstream in the most integrated setting possible; and
- address, on a statewide basis, the improvement of: (1) communities' capacity to support individuals with disabilities with personal attendant care and other self-directed long-term care options; (2) the availability of accessible, integrated, and affordable housing; (3) reliable transportation options; (4) employment and training options; (5) somatic and mental health options; (6) accessible and universally designed technology; (7) support services for children, youth, and families to enable them to achieve successful learning; and (8) family support services.

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities advises MDOD, reviews statewide programs for persons with disabilities, and fosters coordination and support for these programs. Twenty members constitute the commission. Eighteen are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor. One member is named by the Senate President and one by the House Speaker.

The Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee advises MDOD on personal care, attendant care, and home care services. The committee guides MDOD in the development of standards for the training of personal care workers, determining the feasibility of establishing a registry for personal care workers or a referral system of individual providers, and setting compensation levels for personal care workers. The committee consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor.

MDOD advises that there is no specified timeline for review of the State Disabilities Plan and that confusion exists between the revision of the plan and submission of the annual progress report to the Governor and General Assembly. The department further advises that broadening the Maryland Commission on Disabilities membership will ensure that the needs of people with developmental disabilities are met.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2010
ncs/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2010
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 2010

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Department of Disabilities – Maryland Commission on Disabilities –
Duties and Responsibilities

BILL NUMBER: SB 52

PREPARED BY: Department of Disabilities

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.