

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 343
Finance

(Senator Middleton, *et al.*)

Supports Intensity Scale - Stakeholder Advisory Group

This bill establishes a Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Stakeholder Advisory Group to review and make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of SIS. The bill specifies that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) may not implement SIS until the group has provided its recommendations to the department.

DHMH must submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an interim report by December 1, 2011, and a final report by December 2, 2012, on the development and implementation of SIS to be used by the developmental disability community.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can likely be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The scope of the group's review and recommendations must include:

- the feasibility of using SIS as a needs assessment and funding tool;
- the measures used to determine the level of a developmentally disabled individual's support needs and the resources needed to meet those needs;

- the reliability of the measures used to determine the relationship between identified needs and funds allocated;
- the costs of supporting an individual who is receiving services prior to the implementation of SIS, as well as supplementary cost information needed to guide the development of more appropriate provider rates following the implementation of SIS;
- annual expenditures to service providers for each individual, with attention to negotiated add-on rates, geographical differences, and emergency placements;
- SIS implementation plans that incorporate efforts to assess the effects of proposed changes on services and supports for an individual;
- the identification of areas of risk in implementing SIS and ways to reduce the vulnerability of an individual who is receiving services;
- the process for appealing determinations regarding service needs and funding; and
- Medicaid waiver requirements.

The Maryland Association of Community Services must provide staff for the advisory group.

Background: SIS is an assessment tool that evaluates the practical support requirements of an individual with an intellectual disability. By engaging the individual (and those who know the individual well) in a comprehensive interview process, SIS measures support requirements in 57 life activities and 28 behavioral and medical areas. These areas include home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, and health and safety. According to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, SIS differs from traditional tools for measuring an individual's level of developmental disability in that it shifts the focus from what the individual lacks to what the individual needs.

Given the State's fiscal constraints, the Developmental Disabilities Administration is not currently considering implementing SIS or any other new assessment tool.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 300 (Delegates Hubbard and Costa) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Maryland Association of Community Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2011
mc/mwc

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

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