

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 903 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

Finance

**Prince George's County - Adults with Developmental Disabilities Citizen's
Advisory Committee
PG 407-12**

This bill establishes the Adults with Developmental Disabilities Citizen's Advisory Committee in Prince George's County.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2012, and terminates September 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect Prince George's County finances or operations, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The purposes of the committee are to:

- provide information regarding the needs of adult residents of Prince George's County who are developmentally disabled to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Director of the Southern Maryland Regional Office of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Director of the Southern Maryland Regional Division of Rehabilitation Services, and groups in the local community.

- advocate for positive systems change related to the services provided to adults with developmental disabilities;
- advocate for a family-friendly relationship with DDA, the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services, and other State and local organizations;
- provide a forum for information sharing and support among adults with developmental disabilities and their families;
- advocate for best practices in providing services to adults with developmental disabilities; and
- seek input from individuals with developmental disabilities, advocates, family members, community partners, service providers, educators, and administrators on specified local issues.

In addition, the committee must provide a forum for input from residents of Prince George's County on issues related to adults with developmental disabilities and perform any other duty considered appropriate by the committee.

The committee consists of the directors of DDA's Southern Maryland Regional Office and the Division of Rehabilitation Services; one representative from the Prince George's County Department of Family Services; parents and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities; individuals with developmental disabilities; representatives from DDA service providers; and representatives from other interested groups, including local colleges, disability advocates, transportation providers, literacy organizations, and recreation groups. Committee members may not receive compensation for serving as committee members.

The committee must meet at least monthly. DDA's Southern Maryland Regional Office must assist the committee in notifying DDA service providers and consumers of committee meetings. In addition, representatives from the committee must meet with (1) the directors of DDA's Southern Maryland Regional Office and the Division of Rehabilitation Services at least four times annually; and (2) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Director of DDA annually.

Background: Prince George's County's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities was established in 1986 to assist the county in meeting the needs of disabled residents. The commission consists of 20 volunteer members, including consumers with disabilities and representatives from the public and private sectors, provider agencies, and the general public.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County advises that the bill's fiscal impact to the county cannot be determined because it is unclear whether the advisory committee is

intended to replace the county's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities. However, Legislative Services notes that the bill makes no reference to that commission. Furthermore, Legislative Services advises that, although the committee is required to be established in the county, the bill requires nothing of the county government other than for one representative from the county's Department of Family Services to serve as a member of the committee. Accordingly, the bill is not expected to materially affect Prince George's County finances or operations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/mwc

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