

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 405

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Finance

Economic Matters

Life Sciences Advisory Board - Purpose and Membership

This bill establishes the purpose and increases the membership of the Maryland Life Sciences Advisory Board (LSAB). Specifically, the purpose of the board is to recommend State and federal policies, priorities, practices, and legislation to expedite the creation of private-sector jobs through the commercialization of life sciences research. The bill adjusts the board's composition to include three additional members with executive small business experience in the life sciences.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) can identify potential board candidates and cover expense reimbursements for additional members with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal; however, DBED advises that the median number of employees for Maryland biotechnology companies is approximately 10. Representation of small businesses on the board would be beneficial to the Maryland biotechnology industry over time.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 304 of 2007 established the 15-member LSAB in DBED. Life sciences include biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, biomedical technologies, life systems technologies, food sciences, environmental sciences, and biomedical devices. LSAB must report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15 annually.

The report must include any recommendations from LSAB and must summarize LSAB's activities during the preceding year. LSAB must assist DBED in:

- developing a comprehensive State strategic plan for life sciences;
- promoting life sciences research, development, commercialization, and manufacturing within the State;
- promoting collaboration and coordination among life sciences organizations;
- promoting collaboration and coordination among State higher education research institutions;
- developing a strategy to coordinate State and federal resources to attract private-sector investment and job creation;
- developing a strategy to support federal life sciences facilities within the State, including support for infrastructure and capital investment needs; and
- making recommendations to address critical needs in the life sciences.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 141 (Delegate Feldman) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development;
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2012
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