

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 217 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services

This bill establishes a Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services to advise the Board of Public Works (BPW) and monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health, Education, and Social Services by State Agencies. Staffing for the council is provided by agencies represented on the council and by BPW, in accordance with the State budget. By December 31 of each year, the council must report to the General Assembly on its activities and recommendations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Affected State agencies can staff the council and produce the required annual report with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapters 438 and 439 of 2008 established the task force to:

- evaluate and make recommendations regarding the methods used by State agencies to procure the delivery of health and social services;
- examine and make recommendations regarding State agencies' timeliness in preparing and issuing specified reports and in making payments to contractors;

- examine and make recommendations regarding possible standardization of contracting processes; and
- identify and make recommendations regarding other issues affecting the efficiency and cost of procuring health and social services.

A preliminary report from the task force was due by November 30, 2008, but no members of the task force had been appointed by that time. Chapter 683 of 2010 changed the task force's membership, expanded its scope to include procurement of education services, extended its authorization until June 30, 2012, and required a final report by November 30, 2011.

Among the 36 recommendations in the task force's final report was a recommendation to establish a standing committee akin to the council created by this bill. Other recommendations related to granting greater flexibility to agencies in the procurement of health, education, and social services; streamlining and standardizing State procurement processes; making State payments to providers in a more timely fashion; and enhancing the use of technology in the procurement and contract monitoring processes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 315 (Senator Pugh, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office for Children; Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Department of Human Resources; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2012
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