

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1424 (Delegate Smigiel)
Rules and Executive Nominations

**Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration - Opioid Maintenance Therapy Program
- Requirements**

This bill requires the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to require an opioid maintenance therapy program to have standards that are equivalent to a certified American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level of treatment in the following areas: counselor to patient ratio; number of counseling sessions; and urinalysis testing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is unclear how ASAM standards relate to current standards with regard to the areas identified in the bill. However, ADAA advises that existing programs already comply with ASAM standards, where applicable. Thus, the bill's requirements are not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements are not expected to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: ADAA develops and operates unified programs for substance abuse research, training, prevention, and rehabilitation in cooperation with federal, State, local, and private agencies. ADAA's mission is to provide access to a quality and effective substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment service system for the citizens of Maryland. The administration maintains an integrated

statewide service delivery system through a variety of treatment and prevention modalities that provide financial and geographic access to Marylanders who need assistance with drug and alcohol addiction. Treatment is funded through grants and contracts with private and nonprofit providers and local health departments.

Opioid maintenance therapy uses pharmacological interventions to provide treatment, support, and recovery to opioid-addicted patients. An opioid maintenance therapy program must comply with federal regulations providing for an accreditation and certification-based program. State regulations establish program requirements with regard to staffing, hours, random drug testing, medication dosages, transportation of medications, transfer of patient care, take-home privileges, and referral services.

ASAM is a professional society that represents more than 3,000 physicians and is dedicated to increasing access and improving quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addictions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1012 (Cecil County Senators) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Maryland Association of County Health Officers, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2013
ncs/ljm

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