

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 956
Finance

(Senator Brinkley)

State Government - Mental Health and Law Enforcement Advisory Board

This bill establishes the Mental Health and Law Enforcement Advisory Board and specifies membership composition and terms. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) must jointly provide staff for the board. The board must make specified recommendations regarding the establishment of a Maryland Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health State Technical Assistance Center; after the center is established, the board must provide ongoing support and assistance to the center. By June 30, 2014, the board must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although DHMH advises that contractual services are needed to staff the board, DJS and DPSCS advise that staffing duties can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Assuming that DJS and DPSCS handle the bulk of the staffing duties – thereby minimizing staffing demands on DHMH – the bill’s reporting requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources. However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that additional permanent staff may be needed to provide ongoing support for any center that is ultimately established, whether by executive order or subsequent legislation. Any such impact has not been accounted for in this fiscal and policy note.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board is required to make recommendations regarding the establishment of a Maryland Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health State Technical Assistance Center that will (1) assist counties in applying for grants for mental health intervention programs and in monitoring the effect of the programs; (2) disseminate and share evidence-based practices and best practices among counties that have received grants; (3) act as a clearinghouse for information and resources related to criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health, and substance abuse; and (4) provide access to State and national trainers and experts in mental health intervention.

A member of the board may not receive compensation as a member of the board but is entitled to reimbursement of standard expenses, as specified in the State budget.

Current Law/Background: The Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) in DHMH is responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally ill. MHA plans and develops comprehensive services for the mentally ill; supervises State-run psychiatric facilities for the mentally ill; reviews and approves local plans and budgets for mental health programs; provides consultation to State agencies concerning mental health services; establishes personnel standards; and develops, directs, and assists in the formulation of educational and staff development programs for mental health professionals.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1377 (Delegate James) - Health and Government Operations and Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/ljm

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

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