

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 874

(Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

County Health Officers - Authority of County Governing Body and Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene

This bill requires the governing body of a county to establish a process, in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), for making a recommendation to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to replace a health officer if the position becomes vacant.

The bill takes effect January 31, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. DHMH can consult with a governing body to establish a process for recommending a replacement health officer with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Establishing a process to recommend a replacement health officer does not materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The process must include the requirements for recruiting, interviewing, and recommending applicants to fill the position of health officer. Any information relating to the removal of a health officer is confidential, and any meeting relating to the removal must be closed.

The bill does not limit a county governing body's ability to maintain its health officer responsibilities that are concurrent across more than one agency providing service in the county, or to enter into an agreement with one or more other county governing bodies to allow a health officer to serve multiple jurisdictions.

Current Law: County health officers are nominated by the county and appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. Each governing body must establish a process for nominating individual candidates. Health officers are required to have specified educational qualifications and experience. Health officers serve at the pleasure of, and may be removed by, the governing body of that county and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Carroll, Montgomery, and St. Mary's counties; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Association of Counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2014
ncs/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2014

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