

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 950  
Appropriations

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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University System of Maryland - Constituent Institutions - Alcohol and Drug  
Addiction Recovery Program

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This bill requires the president of each constituent institution of the University System of Maryland (USM) to develop and implement a collegiate recovery program (CRP) to provide support and services for enrolled students who are recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. The program must be tailored for the institution, satisfy the standards and guidelines established by the Board of Regents of USM on the recommendation of the Chancellor, and address the needs of students at the institution who are recovering from alcohol or drug addiction.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Higher education expenditures for USM institutions increase, potentially significantly, to implement CRPs at each USM institution. However, a modest CRP can likely be implemented using existing resources as explained below. The actual costs of CRPs depends on the guidelines established by the Board of Regents and the choices made by USM institutions to meet those guidelines. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** USM institutions are not required to develop or implement CRPs.

**Background:** According to a 2007 survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 49% of full-time college students binge drink and/or abuse prescription

and illegal drugs. The study also found that 1.8 million full-time college students (22.9%) met the medical criteria for substance abuse and dependence, which is almost three times the general population (8.5%) who meet these same criteria. The college environment, with the generally permissive attitude of students and the wide availability of drugs, can be particularly challenging for individuals in recovery from substance abuse.

In recognition of the challenges faced by individuals in recovery while attending college, some institutions of higher education across the nation have established CRPs to provide support. According to [the Association of Recovery in Higher Education](#), research shows that, among other elements, the most successful CRPs have the following: (1) a dedicated staff person; (2) a physical space on campus; and (3) an abstinence-based recovery program. However, as CRPs are relatively new, successful CRPs may operate differently.

**State Expenditures:** Higher education expenditures for USM institutions increase, potentially significantly, to implement CRPs at each USM institution. As stated above, the most successful CRPs have a dedicated staff person and a physical space on campus. If these elements are required by the guidelines established by the Board of Regents, to the extent these requirements cannot be met using existing staff and meeting space, USM institution higher education expenditures increase significantly. USM also advises that staff and a social or gathering place for the CRPs may be necessary depending on the requirements set by the Board of Regents. However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that more modest CRP programs, such as one that only used peer support in existing meeting space, can likely be developed and implemented using existing resources. The actual costs of CRPs depends on the guidelines established and the choices made by USM institutions to meet those guidelines.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** University System of Maryland; National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse; Association of Recovery in Higher Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2017  
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