

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 427
(Delegate Queen)
Appropriations

**Public Institutions of Higher Education - Public Health Advisories - Required
Communication**

This bill requires the governing body of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement a policy for the timely communication of public health advisories issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to students, faculty, staff, and other employees of the institution. By October 1, 2017, each public institution of higher education must send to the Maryland Higher Education Commission a copy of the policy developed under the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Public four-year institutions of higher education and Baltimore City Community College can develop and implement a policy of timely communication of specified public health advisories using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local community colleges can develop and implement a policy of timely communication of specified public health advisories using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: CDC's [Health Alert Network](#) (HAN) is CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories. CDC's HAN collaborates with federal, state, territorial, city, and county partners to develop protocols and stakeholder relationships that will ensure a robust interoperable platform for the rapid distribution of public health information. HAN distributes four types of messages: health alerts; health advisories; health updates; and information services.

DHMH uses the Maryland Health Alert Network to distribute health alerts within Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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