

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 1516 (Delegate Parrott)
 Health and Government Operations

Washington County - Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach
 Program - Prohibition on Establishment

This bill prohibits an opioid-associated disease prevention and outreach program (as established by the local health department (LHD) or a community-based organization (CBO) from being established in Washington County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$94,000 in FY 2021 for staff to absorb activities currently provided by the Washington County Syringe Services Program (SSP). Future year expenditures reflect annualization and elimination of one-time-only costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	94,000	80,800	82,200	84,400	86,800
Net Effect	(\$94,000)	(\$80,800)	(\$82,200)	(\$84,400)	(\$86,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Revenues and expenditures decrease for Washington County beginning in FY 2021, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 348 of 2016 authorizes an LHD or CBO, with the approval of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the appropriate local health officer, to

establish an opioid-associated disease prevention and outreach program. An LHD or CBO must apply to MDH and a local health officer for authorization to operate a program, and MDH and the local health officer must jointly authorize the program. An opioid-associated disease prevention and outreach program must:

- secure program locations and equipment;
- allow participants to obtain and return hypodermic needles and syringes at any program location, if more than one location is available;
- have appropriate staff expertise in working with individuals who inject drugs;
- include adequate staff training;
- disseminate other means for curtailing the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis;
- link individuals to additional services, including substance-related disorder counseling, treatment, and recovery services; testing for specified diseases; reproductive health education and services; wound care; and overdose response program services;
- educate participants on the dangers of contracting HIV and viral hepatitis;
- provide overdose prevention education and access to naloxone or a referral to obtain naloxone;
- establish procedures for identifying program participants in accordance with specified confidentiality provisions;
- establish methods for identifying and authorizing staff members and volunteers who have access to hypodermic needles, syringes, and program records;
- develop a plan for data collection and program evaluation; and
- collect and report specified information to MDH at least annually.

Background: MDH advises that laboratory reporting for HIV, viral hepatitis, and certain sexually transmitted infections are required under Maryland law. Initial reports are transmitted to LHDs and MDH. Surveillance for these diseases is maintained and used by MDH for public health action aimed at transmission interruption. SSPs provide more immediate engagement of populations vulnerable to the acquisition of reportable diseases, increasing health care access, screening, linkage to care, and referral to treatment.

State Expenditures: MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$93,979 in fiscal 2021, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2020 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one coordinator of special programs to absorb activities currently performed by the Washington County SSP. This program helps the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration's (PHPA) disease intervention specialist, who conducts surveillance activities, locates and interviews patients to ensure treatment and/or linkage to care, elicits named partners and notifies them of exposure, and offers testing and referral to treatment.

The estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, vehicle and travel expenses, and ongoing operating expenses.

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Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$48,618
Vehicle and Travel Expenses	31,527
Other Operating Expenses	<u>13,834</u>
Total FY 2021 State Expenditures	\$93,979

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: Washington County receives approximately \$300,000 in federal grant funds for its SSP. Revenues and expenditures, therefore, decrease for the county in due to the bill's prohibition. The federal grant funds are Ryan White Part B Rebate Funds, which cannot be reallocated for PHPA to hire an additional staff member. PHPA advises that Washington County's SSP currently employs three full-time staff, whose positions are likely eliminated under the bill or transferred to other functions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Washington County; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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