

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 718
 Appropriations

(Delegate Guyton)

Finance

**State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on
 Autism-Related Needs - Location and Funding**

This bill moves the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy from the Department of Disabilities (MDOD) to the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives. Beginning in fiscal 2023, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to fund the position of State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$83,700 in FY 2022 to fund the position; a portion of this funding is included in the FY 2022 budget and is contingent on passage of this bill. Future years reflect annualization and ongoing operating costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	83,700	100,100	103,200	106,800	110,600
Net Effect	(\$83,700)	(\$100,100)	(\$103,200)	(\$106,800)	(\$110,600)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 341 of 2020 established a State Coordinator for Autism Strategy in MDOD to (1) identify and evaluate existing services for individuals with autism and their families; (2) develop a strategic plan for addressing autism-related needs by July 1, 2021; (3) identify national benchmarks and other performance measures; and (4) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategic plan and the success of the State in addressing autism-related needs.

By July 1, 2021, and each year thereafter, the coordinator must submit a report to the Secretary of Disabilities, the Governor, and the General Assembly on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of the strategic plan.

State Expenditures: Although the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy position was established under Chapter 341 of 2020, it has not yet been funded. The fiscal 2022 budget includes a general fund appropriation of \$53,330, contingent on passage of legislation establishing a Coordinator for Autism Strategy within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives advises that the amount included in the fiscal 2022 budget will provide a *salary* only for the coordinator position for nine months of fiscal 2022. The bill requires that the Governor, beginning in fiscal 2023, include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to fund the position and the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs.

Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$83,720 in fiscal 2022, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring the coordinator. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. Any costs associated with the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs are not reflected in this analysis.

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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Disabilities; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
rh/jc

First Reader - February 15, 2021

Third Reader – March 19, 2021

Revised - Amendment(s) – March 19, 2021

Revised - Budget Information - July 14, 2021

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