

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 700

(Senator Klausmeier)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Maryland Department of Health - Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care
Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup

This bill requires the Secretary of Health to establish a Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to (1) develop a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence in health care settings; (2) recognize and accommodate the needs of patients with mental health disorders and substance abuse disorders in the development of the campaign; and (3) create a plan for implementing the public awareness campaign, including distributing information on workplace violence in a health care setting in the State. By November 1, 2022, the workgroup must report on the public awareness campaign to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup must include specified members, appointed by the Secretary of Health, including at least one (1) licensed health care provider who has experienced workplace violence; (2) individual who works in a hospital; (3) individual who

works in a nursing home; (4) public communications professional; (5) individual who works in a facility that provides mental health services; (6) individual who works in a facility that provides treatment for substance abuse disorders; and (7) representative who works to provide security services at a health care facility. The workgroup must also include one representative from the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association and any other representative that the Secretary determines necessary.

Current Law: Chapter 510 of 2014 requires a health care facility to establish a workplace safety committee, which must establish and administer a workplace safety program that is appropriate for the size and complexity of the health care facility. The workplace safety committee must be composed of an equal number of employees who work in management and employees who do not work in management. “Health care facility” means a hospital (including a subacute unit of a hospital and a State-operated hospital) or a State residential center.

A workplace safety program established by a health care facility must include (1) a written policy describing how the health care facility provides for the safety of health care workers; (2) an annual assessment to identify hazards, conditions, operations, and situations that could lead to workplace injuries and be used to develop recommendations to reduce the risk of workplace injuries; (3) a process for reporting, responding to, and tracking incidences of workplace injuries; and (4) regular workplace safety training for health care workers.

State Fiscal Effect: The Secretary of Health can appoint members to the workgroup using existing budgeted resources. However, the bill does not specify staff for the workgroup. To the extent that additional resources are required to convene the workgroup and complete the required report within the allocated five-month timeframe, general fund expenditures increase by an indeterminate amount for contractual services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1389 (Delegate Bagnall, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2022
fnu2/jc Third Reader - March 23, 2022
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 23, 2022

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