

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 832  
(Senator Feldman)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Public Institutions of Higher Education – Students With Chronic Health Conditions – Case Manager**

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This bill requires each public institution of higher education in the State to designate a case manager for students with chronic health conditions. A case manager must (1) coordinate services among different departments, including those specified; (2) provide information to students regarding the availability and access to necessary supports and services for students with chronic health conditions; and (3) collect data and information on programs, services, and outcomes, including those specified. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Public four-year and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) higher education expenditures likely increase by *at least* \$76,600 per institution annually to hire a case manager for students with chronic health conditions. To the extent that the requirements can be met with existing staff, costs are less. Revenues are not directly affected.

**Local Effect:** Local community college higher education expenditures likely increase by *at least* \$76,600 per institution annually to hire a case manager for students with chronic health conditions. To the extent that the requirements can be met with existing staff, costs are less. Revenues are not directly affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** A chronic health condition is defined as a health condition or disease that is persistent or long-lasting in its effects or comes with time and requires ongoing medical attention.

**Current Law:** The University System of Maryland (USM) does not have a policy specifically addressing the accommodation of students with chronic health conditions. The Department of Legislative Services also reviewed the policies of several large USM institutions and did not find such a policy. USM [policy](#) does require that all policies, programs, and activities of the university system be in conformity with all pertinent federal and State laws on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability.

**State/Local Fiscal Effect:** It is unclear how many students at a public institution of higher education have a chronic health condition and qualify for a case manager under the bill; however, according to [WebMD](#) up to 17% of young people live with chronic disease. According to the [Maryland Higher Education Commission 2022 data book](#), in fall 2020, there were 600 to 20,000 undergraduate students per community college and 900 to 47,100 undergraduate students per public four-year institution. Thus, if it is assumed that 17% of students qualify for services, there are approximately 100 to 8,000 students per public institution that would qualify for case management services. It is unknown if any case management services are currently provided by the institutions.

Overall higher education expenditures largely depend on the level of case management required. The bill states that each public institution of higher education must designate a case manager for students with chronic health conditions. Based on information provided by USM, Morgan State University, and BCCC, existing staff are fully subscribed; thus, public institutions of higher education must hire additional staff to meet the requirements of the bill. Therefore, higher education expenditures for public institutions of higher education likely increase by *at least* \$76,600 per each institution annually to hire a case manager for students with chronic health conditions and to collect the required information on programs, services, and outcomes. This estimate reflects salary and benefits. Although the bill only requires each institution to designate one case manager per institution, several institutions advise that they would need more than one case manager based on the number of students that likely have chronic health conditions.

To the extent that the requirements can be met with existing staff, costs are less. It is unknown if any public institutions of higher education currently offer case management services to students with chronic conditions. In addition, some institutions may be able to shift resources from existing services for students to case management for students with chronic conditions. Without additional resources, institutions may choose to use existing

staff; however, resources will be shifted from existing priorities. Some institutions may choose to increase student fees to offset the costs of offering case management services; however, revenues are not directly impacted.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1098 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk) - Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Higher Education Commission; WebMD; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2022  
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