

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 286

(Delegate Kaiser)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration -
Effective Date**

This bill retains for two additional years, until January 1, 2025, the provisions of law that authorize a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort conducted by the appropriate local health department (LHD) or a hospital or health system in the State. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not substantively change State activities or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not substantively change local activities or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 799 of 2021, among other things, authorizes a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort conducted by the appropriate LHD or a hospital or health system in the State. This authorization terminates January 1, 2023.

Influenza and COVID-19 immunizations must be (1) provided under the direction of the emergency medical services (EMS) operational program medical director, ambulance service medical director, or other qualified physician and authorized by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and (2) provided in

accordance with a written agreement between the paramedic's EMS operational program or ambulance service and the LHD or a hospital or health system. A written agreement must include provisions for (1) the administration of a vaccine to an individual at least 18 years of age; (2) storage and inventory of medication; (3) distribution of appropriate vaccine information statements; (4) documentation of patient consent; (5) recognition of adverse effects; (6) referral and follow-up; and (7) appropriate documentation of vaccine administration.

Additional Comments: MIEMSS advises that, nationally, 34 states authorize paramedics to vaccinate individuals as part of their regular scope of practice or under medical direction, while 17 states and territories have temporarily authorized paramedics to administer vaccines. Through September 1, 2021, Maryland EMS clinicians have administered more than 100,000 COVID-19 vaccinations, including more than 80,000 to the public as part of public health outreach conducted in partnership with LHDs and hospitals or health systems, and an additional 21,000 to State, county, and local government employees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2022
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