

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1378 (Delegate Cox, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health – COVID–19 – Antibody Tests (COVID–19 Natural Immunity
Parity Act)

This bill authorizes an individual, except as prohibited by federal law, to show proof of a positive COVID-19 antibody test to satisfy any COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change for Baltimore City Community College and public four-year universities is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Any change for local community colleges and some local school systems is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland imposed a vaccine requirement, effective September 1, 2021, for all staff of residential facilities operated by the Maryland Department of Health or a local health department, State correctional facilities, State facilities operated by the Department of Juvenile Services, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, other State congregate living facilities, and all nursing homes and hospitals. Employees must show proof of vaccination or adhere to strict face covering requirements and submit to regular, ongoing COVID-19 testing. In addition, State colleges and universities require all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated to be on campus.

Additional Information: Antibodies are proteins created by your immune system that help you fight off infections. They are made after you have been infected by or vaccinated against an infection. Antibodies can protect you from getting those infections for some period of time afterward. However, how long this protection lasts differs for each disease and each person. Antibody tests should generally not be used to diagnose a current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. An antibody test may not show if you have a current infection because it can take one to three weeks after the infection for your body to make antibodies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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