

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 966

(Senator Muse)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Prince George's County – Workgroup on Health and Wellness

This bill establishes a Workgroup on Health and Wellness in Prince George's County. The Prince George's County Health Officer must designate a workgroup chair, and the Prince George's County Health Department must provide staff. By December 1, 2024, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Executive, the Chair of the Prince George's County Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures increase by approximately \$125,000 in FY 2024 and 2025, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup comprises several members, including the Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation, the Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation, the Chair of the Prince George's County Council, and specified local members as appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation or the Prince George's County Executive. Members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under standard State travel regulations.

The workgroup must (1) review the availability of health and wellness practices in Prince George's County; (2) review available options for integrative health and wellness programs in Prince George's County; (3) review programs that promote healthy eating within Prince George's County government agencies; (4) make specified recommendations regarding best practices in health and wellness community programming; (5) make recommendations for incentives that may be provided to employers, businesses, and Prince George's County agencies to promote identified health and wellness strategies and programs; (6) review and report on the benefits of incorporating integrative health into various aspects of Prince George's County; and (7) evaluate the benefit and feasibility of creating integrative health and wellness hubs in Prince George's County.

The workgroup may establish a subgroup, which may include an individual who is not a member of the workgroup, such as a representative of a relevant expert.

Current Law: The Prince George's Health Department offers health and wellness support for county residents. The Division of Health and Wellness Services encourages behavioral changes to improve the health of county residents to prevent chronic illness, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Local Expenditures: The Prince George's County Health Department advises that existing staff cannot absorb the additional responsibilities required by the bill. Therefore, Prince George's County expenditures increase by approximately \$125,000 in fiscal 2024 and 2025 to hire one contractual position to staff the workgroup and complete the required report. This analysis assumes that the position terminates at the end of fiscal 2025, in conjunction with the termination of the bill. To the extent that the workgroup completes its work by December 1, 2024 (the due date of the workgroup's report), expenditures are reduced.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Prince George's County; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2023
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