

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 697

(Senator Gile, *et al.*)

Finance

Appropriations

**Maryland National Guard - Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program -
Alterations**

This bill repeals the \$60 monthly cap on a grant award that the Military Department (MMD) may provide to an eligible recipient under the TRICARE Premium Reimbursement Program. However, the total amount of grants awarded to eligible recipients in a fiscal year may not exceed the annual appropriation in the State budget for the program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although the bill authorizes MMD to provide grants greater than \$60 per month to an eligible recipient, as the total amount of grants awarded in a fiscal year may not exceed the program's annual appropriation, additional general fund expenditures are not *required*. Instead, the annual appropriation for the program is more likely to be fully expended under the bill or a cap may need to be instituted if demand is greater than available funding. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 612 of 2023 established a TRICARE Premium Reimbursement Program in MMD. The department may award grants of up to \$60 per month to a member of the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) who is eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select. Grants may be provided for a premium paid for individual coverage or for any member of

the applicant's immediate family under the TRICARE Reserve Select Program or the TRICARE Dental Program. The program officially launched on November 1, 2023. Applications can be accessed through the [Maryland OneStop Portal](#). As of January 17, 2024, there were 383 individuals enrolled in the program (9% of eligible MDNG members). The fiscal 2025 budget includes \$871,300 in general funds for the program.

TRICARE Reserve Select is a premium-based health insurance plan available for Selected Reserves members and their families who are not on active duty, not covered under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP), and not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. Individuals enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select pay monthly premiums, an annual deductible, copayments for in-network covered services, and a percentage cost share for out-of-network covered services. For calendar 2024, premiums are \$51.95 per month for individual/sponsor coverage and \$256.87 per month for family coverage.

The TRICARE Dental Program is a premium-based dental plan for National Guard/Reserve members who are not on active duty, not covered under TAMP, family members of a National Guard/Reserve member, or family members of an active-duty service member. For calendar 2024, premiums are \$12.36 per month for sponsor-only coverage, \$30.89 for single coverage, \$80.33 for family coverage, and \$111.22 for sponsor and family coverage.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1504 (Delegate Ebersole) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Military Department; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2024
km/ljm Third Reader - March 19, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 19, 2024
Revised - Budget Information - April 25, 2024

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