

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 341
Health

Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health - Establishment

This bill establishes the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Mental Health in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The commission must (1) review health data to inform strategies to reduce negative health outcomes of boys and men; (2) collaborate with partners to advise on policies and programs; (3) promote gender and culturally responsive care across the State; and (4) monitor federal and State policy and legislation. A member of the commission may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses. Each unit of State government must fully cooperate with the commission in the performance of its duties. By September 30 of each year, the commission must submit recommendations for policy changes that further the commission's goals to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health Committee. Beginning in 2028 and biannually thereafter, the report must include progress indicators and data trends. The commission may not adopt regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: To the extent MDH must staff the commission, general fund expenditures increase by \$138,100 in FY 2027 for personnel. Future years reflect annualization and ongoing expenses. To the commission accepts federal or private funding, federal/special funds increase by an indeterminate amount beginning as early as FY 2027.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	138,100	159,600	167,100	174,800	182,500
Net Effect	(\$138,100)	(\$159,600)	(\$167,100)	(\$174,800)	(\$182,500)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Commission Membership

The commission consists of members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House. Certain members must be appointed from among applicants nominated and recommended by organizations in the State whose interests relate to boys' and men's health or family involvement, while others must be appointed from applicants applying on their own behalf. Uncodified language requires the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House to ensure geographic, demographic, and professional diversity among commission membership to the extent possible.

A term of a member is four years. The appointing authority may authorize a member to serve a second consecutive term without going through the formal appointment process. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. A member who does not attend at least half of the regularly scheduled meetings during a 12-month period is considered to have resigned from the commission. The commission must elect a chair and a vice chair from among its members and may appoint any officers that it considers necessary.

Duties of the Commission

The commission must perform the following duties and consider population diversity when doing so:

- periodically review health data to inform strategies aimed at reducing negative health outcomes of boys and men for specific health conditions;
- collaborate with partners to shape and advise on policies and programs, as specified;
- promote gender and culturally responsive care across the health care system in the State; and
- monitor federal and State policy and legislation that may affect areas of boys' and men's health and family involvement.

Acceptance of Funding

Subject to approval of the Secretary of Health, the commission may accept (1) federal funds and (2) private gifts and donations from individuals, private organizations, or foundations. The acceptance and use of federal funds may not be considered a commitment of State funds and does not obligate the General Assembly to continue the purpose for which the funds are available.

Current Law: Chapter 442 of 2006 established the Commission for Men's Health, which terminated on September 30, 2010. The commission was responsible for:

- developing strategies and programs;
- reviewing the health status of men in Maryland and focusing on health outcomes of men for specific diseases;
- organizing community workshops to identify issues affecting men's health and family involvement;
- monitoring State and federal policy and legislation that may affect the areas of men's health and family involvement; and
- recommending assistance, services, and policy changes to further the commission's goals.

Maryland Commission for Women

There is a Maryland Commission for Women in the Department of Human Services, which works to advance solutions and to expand social, political, and economic opportunities for all women. The commission must:

- stimulate and encourage study and review of the status of women in the State;
- strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and workers;
- recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and private employment;
- encourage women to become candidates for public office;
- promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and to be retrained;
- secure appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to the State;
- work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the commission's responsibilities; and
- inform the Executive and Legislative branches on issues concerning women, including offering testimony on these issues.

The commission may (1) act as a clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of effort and (2) make surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health and safety, new and expanded services, legal rights, family relations, human relations, and volunteer services. The commission must submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly.

State Expenditures: The bill does not specify which entity is responsible for staffing the commission. This analysis assumes MDH must staff the commission as it is established within the department. Therefore, MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$138,050 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time and one part-time health policy analyst to staff the commission, collect health data, conduct research, and draft the annual report (including preparation of biennial progress indicators and data trends). It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Positions	1.5
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$120,233
Operating Expenses	<u>17,817</u>
Total FY 2027 State Expenditures	\$138,050

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1552 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/jc

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