

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 672
Health

(Delegates Shetty and Rosenberg)

Public Health - Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund - Entities Eligible for Grants

This bill alters the entities eligible to receive grants for conducting pediatric cancer research from the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund to include only *nonprofit* hospitals, educational institutions, and other *nonprofit* organizations. Laboratories and persons are no longer eligible for grants.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 253 and 254 of 2022 established the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund within the Maryland Department of Health. The fund is authorized to provide grants for eligible physicians, hospitals, laboratories, educational institutions, and other organizations and persons to conduct pediatric cancer research.

Each year, the Secretary of Health may (1) distribute funds from the fund to a promotional account to be allocated to a State-based childhood cancer organization for use in promoting further donations to the fund and to educate the State scientific community about the opportunities for childhood cancer research through the fund and (2) use funds from the fund to administer the fund (including staff and administrative costs associated with the

Pediatric Cancer Research Commission). However, the Secretary may not distribute or use more than 5% of the fund for these purposes.

Chapters 924 and 925 of 2024 established the Pediatric Cancer Research Commission to oversee the award of competitive grants from the fund. The commission must:

- develop criteria, standards, and requirements for the review of applications for pediatric cancer research grants from the fund;
- establish procedures and guidelines to be used in the review, evaluation, ranking, and rating of the research grant proposals;
- develop criteria and a process for reviewing grant applications to ensure that each application is complete and satisfies the developed criteria, standards, and requirements;
- develop disclosure and recusal guidelines to be followed by commission members when considering grant applications;
- establish standards for the oversight of awards; and
- conduct progress reviews of grant recipients.

Expenditures from the fund must be made in accordance with the State budget, and money expended from the fund is supplemental to and may not supplant funding otherwise appropriated to pediatric cancer research. The fiscal 2027 budget as introduced includes \$2,481,141 in special fund expenditures for the fund.

Additional Information

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

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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