

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1133  
Health

(Delegate Taveras, *et al.*)

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Public Health - Drug Manufacturer-Funded Disease Awareness Campaigns -  
Registration and Required Disclosure

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This bill requires a “drug manufacturer” or “patient advocacy organization”, before conducting a “disease awareness campaign,” to (1) register with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH); (2) disclose to MDH whether the drug manufacturer or the drug manufacturer from which the patient advocacy organization receives funding is developing, manufacturing, or marketing a drug or device for the medical condition that is the focus of the campaign; and (3) specify the drug or device that the drug manufacturer is developing, manufacturing, or marketing. If the drug manufacturer or patient advocacy organization discloses that the focus of the campaign is a drug or device that is being marketed, any materials produced or distributed for the campaign must include a statement disclosing the drug or device that is being marketed. MDH must adopt regulations to carry out the bill.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Sufficient information was not available in time to include an analysis of the fiscal impact of this legislation.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Disease awareness campaign” means a public health effort designed to inform a target audience about a specific medical condition, including information related to risk factors, symptoms, prevention, and treatment options.

“Drug manufacturer” means an entity that (1) engages in the manufacture of a prescription drug or device or (2) enters into a lease with another manufacturer to market and distribute a prescription drug or device under the entity’s own name.

“Patient advocacy organization” means an organization that (1) provides education, advocacy, and support to a patient or caregiver of a patient; (2) is concerned with a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed health care provider; or (3) has a mission that seeks to help vulnerable individuals or families of individuals affected by a medical condition and takes action consistent with the mission. The bill applies only to patient advocacy organizations that receive funding from a drug manufacturer that is developing, manufacturing, or marketing a drug or device for the medical condition that is the focus of a disease awareness campaign.

**Current Law:** “Device” means any instrument, apparatus, or contrivance, or any part of accessory of an instrument, apparatus, or contrivance, that is intended (1) for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of human disease, or (2) to affect the structure or any function of the human body for medical, surgical, or therapeutic purposes.

“Drug” means any substance or component of a substance (1) that is recognized in an official compendium; (2) that is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in human beings; or (3) except for food, that is intended to affect the structure or any function of the human body.

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### 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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2026  
jg/jc

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