

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 574

(Senator Klausmeier, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup

This bill requires the Secretary of Health to establish a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to (1) develop a public awareness campaign on sepsis awareness and prevention; (2) identify, review, and evaluate resources that could be used to educate the public on sepsis; and (3) identify cost-effective methods for disseminating information to the public about sepsis. The workgroup must report to specified committees of the General Assembly on the campaign developed under the bill by December 1, 2018. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund expenditures in FY 2018 and 2019 only for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to convene the workgroup and report to the General Assembly. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: A local health department representative can participate in the workgroup with existing budgeted staff and resources. No impact on local government revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Secretary of Health must establish general policy and standards to promote and guide the development of physical and mental hygiene services in Maryland. However, there is no current law specific to sepsis or standards of care for sepsis.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is life-threatening, and without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Sepsis happens when an infection an individual already has, which can be in the skin, lungs, urinary tract, or elsewhere, triggers a chain reaction throughout the body. Symptoms can include confusion or disorientation, shortness of breath, a high heart rate, fever, extreme pain or discomfort, and/or clammy or sweaty skin. In August 2017, CDC launched a public awareness campaign about sepsis with information for patients, caregivers, and health care professionals. This information is available on CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/index.html>.

State Expenditures: MDH advises that general fund expenditures increase by \$16,511 in fiscal 2018 and by \$22,912 in fiscal 2019 to hire two part-time contractual employees to coordinate a study of sepsis awareness and prevention and provide support for the preparation and dissemination of the final report. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) disagrees due to the availability of comprehensive public awareness information on sepsis on the CDC's website, which appears to fulfill the requirements of the bill. Thus, DLS advises that MDH can likely implement the bill with only a minimal increase in general fund expenditures, in fiscal 2018 and 2019 only, to convene the workgroup and support the submission of the final report.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1467 (Delegate Sample-Hughes, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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