

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 404

(Senator Lam)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

**State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - Maryland
School-Based Health Center Standards - Revision**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), by August 1, 2019, to revise Maryland school-based health center (SBHC) standards to (1) repeal current requirements that SBHCs have a medical director who is a physician and that a physician consultant be available to SBHC staff to discuss clinical issues as needed and (2) authorize a licensed physician or nurse practitioner to serve as a clinical director or consultant of an SBHC. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE and MDH can revise Maryland's SBHC standards with existing budgeted staff and resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Expenditures may decrease minimally, the required changes to SBHC standards are not anticipated to materially affect local board of education or local health department (LHD) finances. Local boards of education and LHDs can consult with MSDE and MDH as necessary to assist with the revision of SBHC standards with existing staff and resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MSDE and MDH are required to jointly (1) develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs and (2) offer assistance to local boards of education and LHDs in their implementation. Statute requires each local board of education, with the assistance of the LHD, to provide adequate school health services,

instruction in health education (including the importance of physical activity in maintaining good health), and a healthful school environment.

SBHCs are health centers located in a school or on a school campus that provide on-site comprehensive preventative and primary health services. Services may also include mental health, oral health, ancillary, and supportive services.

The Maryland School-Based Health Center Policy Advisory Council was established and began to meet in 2003. The council was mandated to establish uniform statewide standards for SBHCs. These standards are available on MSDE's [website](#). In Maryland, there are two primary models of school health services: (1) a nurse in every school; or (2) a paraprofessional in each school with a registered nurse supervisor covering two to four schools. According to MSDE, there are 85 SBHCs in Maryland. Most SBHCs are sponsored by the LHD.

All SBHCs in Maryland must meet minimum requirements. Among other things, all SBHCs must develop an organizational chart that reflects clear lines of authority for SBHC program staff and staff employed by the local school system or other agency. One administrator must be responsible for the SBHC's overall management, quality of care, and coordination with school personnel. Each SBHC must have a designated site coordinator, with administrative duties outlined in a job description. Additionally, a physician consultant must be available to staff to discuss clinical issues as needed.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1800 of 2018, a similar bill, passed the House and received a first reading in the Senate Rules Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 47 (Delegate Cullison) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 2019
sb/jc Third Reader - March 1, 2019

Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

