

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 First Reader

House Bill 666 (Delegate Queen, *et al.*)  
 Health and Government Operations

Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences

This bill establishes the Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences, which must (1) update, improve, and develop screening tools that primary care providers can use to identify and treat minors who have a mental health disorder that may be caused by or related to an adverse childhood experience; (2) submit the screening tools to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH); (3) recommend changes to the physical examination form that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requires of all new students entering a public school; and (4) study and make recommendations on the actions a primary care provider should take after screening a minor for a mental health disorder that may be caused by or related to an adverse childhood experience and finding that the minor shows signs of trauma. The workgroup must complete these activities by July 1, 2021. A member of the workgroup may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under standard State travel regulations. MDH must provide staff for the workgroup. By July 1, 2021, the workgroup must also report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020, and terminates June 30, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$81,200 in FY 2021 only to staff the workgroup. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	81,200	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$81,200)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** A physical examination is required of each child entering the Maryland public school system for the first time. The examination must be completed within a 15-month period, specifically within 9 months before entrance or 6 months after entrance. The physical examination form designated by MSDE and MDH must be used to meet this requirement. The physical examination must be completed by a physician or a certified nurse practitioner.

According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, nationally, 61% of men and 51% of women report exposure to at least one lifetime traumatic event, and 90% of clients in public behavioral health care settings have experienced trauma.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adverse childhood experiences are costly. The economic and social costs to families, communities, and society total hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$81,211 in fiscal 2021, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2020 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of MDH hiring one advanced health policy analyst to staff the workgroup. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, and one-time start-up costs.

Contractual Position	1
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$75,686
One-time Start-up Costs	4,890
Other Operating Expenses	<u>635</u>
<b>Total FY 2021 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$81,211</b>

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

For the purposes of this fiscal and policy note, it is assumed that reimbursements for workgroup members are minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources and that the contractual position terminates June 30, 2021, concurrent with the due date for the workgroup's report.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2020  
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Analysis by: Hillary J. Cleckler

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