

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 243
Finance

(Senator Feldman)

Secretary of Health – Professional Qualification Requirement

This bill requires the Secretary of Health to be professionally qualified through experience or education in at least one of the following areas: (1) health law or policy; (2) health care facilities administration; (3) health economics or financial management; (4) government operations related to health care; or (5) as a health care provider. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Secretary of Health is the head of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary must advise the Governor on all matters assigned to MDH and is responsible for carrying out the Governor’s policies related to health matters. The Secretary must establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient administration of MDH and may establish, reorganize, or abolish areas of responsibility in the department as necessary.

With approval of the Governor, the Secretary must appoint five deputy secretaries: the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health; the Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing; the Deputy Secretary for Operations; the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services; and the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities.

The Secretary is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget and is responsible for the budget of the office of the Secretary and of each unit in MDH. The Secretary may apply for, receive, and spend grants-in-aid by the federal government or any of its agencies or any other federal funds made available to MDH for use in carrying out powers and duties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 287 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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