

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 210

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -  
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services  
Systems)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration -  
Effective Date

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This departmental bill extends by five additional years, until January 1, 2030, the provisions of law that authorize a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort conducted by the appropriate local health department (LHD) or a hospital or health system in the State. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not substantively change State activities or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 799 of 2021, among other things, authorizes a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of a population health outreach effort conducted by the appropriate LHD or a hospital or health system in the State. This

authorization was initially set to terminate January 1, 2023, but was extended to January 1, 2025, under Chapter 404 of 2022.

Influenza and COVID-19 immunizations must be (1) provided under the direction of the emergency medical services (EMS) operational program medical director, ambulance service medical director, or other qualified physician and authorized by MIEMSS and (2) provided in accordance with a written agreement between the paramedic's EMS operational program or ambulance service and the LHD or a hospital or health system. A written agreement must include provisions for (1) the administration of a vaccine to an individual at least 18 years of age; (2) storage and inventory of medication; (3) distribution of appropriate vaccine information statements; (4) documentation of patient consent; (5) recognition of adverse effects; (6) referral and follow-up; and (7) appropriate documentation of vaccine administration.

**Background:** Chapter 799, which went into effect during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, was designed to permit paramedics to assist LHDs and hospitals and health systems in vaccination initiatives to address population health needs, including by administering COVID-19 immunizations. MIEMSS advises that administration of influenza and COVID-19 immunizations to members of the public continues to be a critical component of public health for the foreseeable future.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 286 of 2022.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 22, 2024  
rh/jc Third Reader - March 13, 2024

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Analysis by: Ralph W. Kettell

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

## **ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL:** Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization  
Administration - Effective Date

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 210

**PREPARED BY:** Patricia Gainer, Government Affairs

### **PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

**XX WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESS**

**OR**

**WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES**

### **PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**N/A**