

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 903

(Senator Kelley)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board - Sunset - Repeal

This bill makes permanent the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board by repealing its September 30, 2008 termination date.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect on expenditures. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Disabilities already provide staffing for the advisory board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 306 of 2005 codified the advisory board which had been in existence since 1999 and was staffed by DHMH and DoD.

The advisory board is charged with

- investigating the needs of citizens with traumatic brain injuries;
- identifying gaps in services to citizens with TBI;
- facilitating collaboration among State agencies serving individuals with TBI;
- facilitating collaboration among organizations and entities serving individuals with TBI;
- encouraging and facilitating community participation in program implementation;
- issuing an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing the

board's actions and containing recommendations; and • disseminating copies of the annual report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Secretary of each department represented on the advisory board.

The report has to include recommendations for • providing oversight in acquiring and utilizing State and federal funds dedicated to services for individuals with TBI; • building provider capacity and provider training that addresses the needs of individuals with TBI; and • improving the coordination of services for individuals with TBI.

Background: The advisory board submitted its most recent report in December 2007 which included the following eight recommendations (1) expand and fully fund brain injury resource coordination services statewide; (2) expand the home and community-based services waiver for adults with traumatic brain injury; (3) perform a market conduct analysis of brain injury benefits and payments; (4) establish a State of Maryland dedicated brain injury trust fund; (5) expand the Governor's employment initiative for persons with acquired brain injuries; (6) maintain Maryland's current motorcycle helmet law; (7) identify students with traumatic brain injury in local school systems and educate school personnel; and (8) coordinate and enhance brain injury data.

According to the advisory board's December 2007 report, in 2005 there were 5,848 hospitalizations with a traumatic brain injury and 661 traumatic brain injury-related deaths in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2008
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