

Fiscal Analysis

PATIENT SAFETY COMMISSION; CREATE



Bill/Sponsor HOUSE BILL 4272 SUBSTITUTE H-4, Rep. Stephen R. Ehardt

House Committee Health Policy

Analysis

Summary

House Bill 4272 (H-4), as reported by the House Committee on Health Policy, amends the Public Health Code to add Section 20188 to the General Provisions of Article 17, Facilities and Agencies, and to repeal Section 20188 18 months after the effective date of the act.

Section 20188 directs the Governor to create a 7-member Commission on Patient Safety in the Department of Community Health (DCH) or designate an existing organization to act as the State Commission on Patient Safety. The Commission shall issue a written report within one year, containing recommendations for improvements in medical practice and a system for reducing medical errors in health facilities and in private practice.

The bill requires the Commission to: conduct public hearings to seek input from the public and from 41 organizations identified in the bill, meet, review information, study the causes of medical errors, and issue a report. The Commission is subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Fiscal Impact

There will be costs associated with the establishment, operations and reporting of a 12-18 month Commission on Patient Safety. Potential costs to DCH will depend on the availability of existing departmental resources. Utilizing an existing organization or initiative may be less costly than establishing a new commission as some initial costs would be bypassed.

For previous legislation, DCH estimated a cost of \$265,000 to establish and support a new commission for this purpose. As a comparison, a Long-Term Care Work Group coordinated by DCH in 1998-2000 utilized existing staff, resources, and existing funds of approximately \$147,000 for contractual support services.

Indeterminate costs and savings likely would result from implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

Analyst

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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 5/14/03

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