

Fiscal Analysis

MEDICAID BLOOD LEAD SCREENING REQUIREMENTS



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 5119 as reported without amendment**
Rep. Carl Williams

House Committee Health Policy

Analysis **Summary**
The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require all medical providers to comply with federal lead screening standards for children as a condition of participating in the Medicaid program. It further authorizes the Department of Community Health to withhold payments from health maintenance organizations providing lead screening tests to less than 80% of their Medicaid enrolled children, and to contract with other community-based agencies and health departments to provide lead screening tests to children enrolled in those HMOs.

Fiscal Impact
HB 5119 would not directly result in significant costs increases for the State. The funds withheld from HMOs for not meeting the 80% lead screening standard can be redirected to other entities to provide the lead testing. If more children are screened and identified as having elevated blood lead levels, medical treatment and remediation costs could increase, but this may potentially decrease overall costs in the future.

Analyst(s)
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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 1/26/04

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