

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 482 (Delegate Angel, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Assisted Living Programs - Educational Material on Influenza
Virus

This bill requires an assisted living program to provide residents with specified educational material about the influenza virus by September 1 each year. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The educational material provided must include (1) the most recent influenza virus vaccination recommendations made by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; (2) the availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of immunization against influenza; (3) the causes and symptoms of influenza; and (4) how influenza is spread.

Current Law: With specified exceptions, an assisted living facility must immunize residents against influenza virus and pneumococcal disease. Each assisted living facility must make available to all residents educational and informational materials relating to both immunizations. Each assisted living facility must conduct the required immunizations

(1) in accordance with the recommendations established by ACIP that are in effect at the time the facility conducts the immunizations and (2) by December 1 of each year.

Background: ACIP comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States. The recommendations stand as public health guidance for the safe use of vaccines and related biological products.

ACIP's current [influenza virus recommendations for 2017-2018](#) recommend routine annual vaccination for all persons six months and older who do not have contraindications, with emphasis placed on vaccination of high-risk groups, including adults aged 50 and older, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and household contacts and caregivers of such individuals.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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