

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 987

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Tran

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Medicaid; program information, accessibility

5. Summary: This legislation directs the Board of Medical Assistance Services to require every person that provides program information to ensure that all program information, defined in the bill, be made available in a manner that is accessible to (i) individuals with limited English proficiency through the provision of language access services, including oral interpretation and written translations, and (ii) individuals with disabilities through the provision of auxiliary aids services, when doing so is a reasonable step to providing meaningful access to health care coverage. The bill provides that language access services and auxiliary aids services shall be provided free of charge to such individuals and that information regarding how to receive the language access services and auxiliary aids services shall be included with program information documents on a website maintained by the Department of Medical Assistance Services and on the website of every agency of the Commonwealth and person with whom the Department has entered into a contract that disseminates program information. The bill also requires every person that makes program information available to use an objective readability measure approved by the Department to test the readability of its program information documents and requires such persons to make program information documents available to the Department for review upon request. Under current law, use of a specific readability formula is required and a minimum total readability score is prescribed.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Minimal Fiscal Impact

8. Fiscal Implications: The Departments of Medical Assistance Services and Social Services report that most agency operations already meet this provisions of this bill due to federal requirements. The remaining impact would be some minimal one-time costs associated with modifying agency mailings.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Medical Assistance Services
Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None