

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 180 (Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Renaming

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This bill renames the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) as the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and renames the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as the Secretary of Health.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The minimal costs associated with the bill's changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. A limited number of small business sign makers could benefit from increased revenues under the bill's provisions if the department contracts with a small business to make signs reflecting the department's new name.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** MDH is the successor of DHMH; previous names and titles have the same meaning as the new names and titles in all laws, executive orders, rules, regulations, policies, or documents created by a State official, employee, or unit.

The bill does not affect (1) the terms of office of members of any commission, office, department, agency, or other unit; (2) the status of any transaction or employment entered into or existing before the bill's effective date; (3) any right, duty, or interest flowing from

a statute amended by the bill; or (4) the continuity of any commission, office, department, agency, or other unit and related matters.

Letterhead, business cards, and other documents bearing the new name may not be used until the materials bearing the previous name have been used. The publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland is required to change cross references and terminology throughout the code and to describe each change in an editor's note.

**Current Law/Background:** DHMH is responsible for promoting and protecting the health of Marylanders. Previous iterations of DHMH date back to the nineteenth century; some of the current functions of the agency were historically handled by several separate departments. In 1961, the Maryland General Assembly established the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene, which merged the then-separate public health and mental health functions of the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Hygiene, respectively; both departments continued to function under the direction of the new board. In 1969, executive reorganization resulted in the creation of the modern Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**State Expenditures:** DHMH advises that approximately 15 signs need to be replaced to reflect the change in the department's name, at a total cost of about \$15,000 in fiscal 2018. However, DHMH advises that these costs can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 613 of 2010, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** SB 82 (Senator Middleton, *et al.*) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Department of General Services; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Maryland Manual On-Line*; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2017  
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