

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB 622

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

2. **Patron:** Price

3. **Committee:** Rules

4. **Title:** State plan for medical assistance services; violence prevention services benefit

5. **Summary:** The proposed legislation directs the Board of Medical Assistance Services to amend the state plan for medical assistance services to include a provision for payment of medical assistance for violence prevention services, defined in the bill, provided by a qualified violence prevention professional to an individual who receives medical treatment for an injury sustained as a result of community violence, defined in the bill, who is determined by a health care provider to be at risk of repeat injury or retaliation. The bill directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to convene a work group to advise the Board on the design and implementation of the violence prevention services benefit and specifies that the work group include representatives from the Department and violence intervention programs, medical providers, survivors of community violence, and other members as deemed appropriate by the Department. The bill requires the Department to post on its website the date upon which violence prevention services may be provided and billed pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, See Item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Convening a workgroup composed of the required representatives is not expected to have any significant costs. However, DMAS maintains that the bill's requirement to "design and implementation of the violence prevention services benefit" will require effort and expertise that is not available within existing agency resources. DMAS reports that this requirement would necessitate the development of services, protocols, and cost projections associated with a violence prevention services benefit. This would also include the development of actuarially sound rates for capitation and fee-for-service programs. Based on previous experiences, DMAS estimates that this bill would require one-time administrative funding of approximately \$250,000 (\$125,000 general fund) to procure the expertise, including actuarial services for rate development, necessary to develop this benefit within the timeframe required in the bill.

In addition to requiring a workgroup to design the benefit, DMAS is also directed to begin making payments violence prevention services. Since the final program design will be determined by the workgroup, there is no way to determine key benefit elements such as

covered services, provider qualifications, and utilization limits. Without knowledge of these factors there is no method of determining a fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. Effective July 1, 2023, Maryland received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reimburse for community violence prevention services. DMAS reports that the estimated cost of this benefit (based on the Maryland design) was approximately \$3.0 million.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Medical Assistance Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to SB 311.