



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 721

January Session, 2019

Senate Bill No. 859

Senate, April 17, 2019

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195sss of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "community health worker" means a
4 public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of
5 the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the
6 community who (1) serves as a liaison between individuals within the
7 community and health care and social services providers to facilitate
8 access to such services and health-related resources, improve the
9 quality and cultural competence of the delivery of such services and
10 address social determinants of health with a goal toward reducing
11 racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic health disparities, and (2)
12 increases health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of
13 services including outreach, engagement, education, coaching,
14 informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination,
15 research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings

16 and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of
 17 health.

18 [(b) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy,
 19 established under section 19a-754a, shall, within available resources
 20 and in consultation with the Community Health Worker Advisory
 21 Committee established by said office and the Commissioner of Public
 22 Health, study the feasibility of creating a certification program for
 23 community health workers. Such study shall examine the fiscal impact
 24 of implementing such a certification program and include
 25 recommendations for (1) requirements for certification and renewal of
 26 certification of community health workers, including any training,
 27 experience or continuing education requirements, (2) methods for
 28 administering a certification program, including a certification
 29 application, a standardized assessment of experience, knowledge and
 30 skills, and an electronic registry, and (3) requirements for recognizing
 31 training program curricula that are sufficient to satisfy the
 32 requirements of certification.

33 (c) Not later than October 1, 2018, the executive director of the
 34 Office of Health Strategy shall report, in accordance with the
 35 provisions of section 11-4a, on the results of such study and
 36 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
 37 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
 38 human services.]

39 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Public Health
 40 shall establish a certification program for community health workers.
 41 The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in
 42 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
 43 provisions of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	20-195sss

PH Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	19,531	23,641
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	7,303	9,738
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a certification program for Community Health Workers (CHW) by 1/1/20. This is anticipated to result in a State cost of approximately \$26,834 in FY 20 and \$33,379 in FY 21 to certify an estimated 400 individuals in the first fiscal year and approximately 15 more in each fiscal year thereafter. Costs to DPH of \$19,531 in FY 20 and \$23,641 in FY 21 reflect the need for a part-time Office Assistant in both fiscal years² and associated equipment (\$1,800 in FY 20 only for a computer, software, and a scanner). The fringe benefit cost to the Office of the State Comptroller to support this position is approximately \$7,303 in FY 20 and \$9,738 in FY 21. It is assumed in this estimate that DPH will establish a renewal process. As initial certification application and renewal fees are not established under the bill, the amount of General

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.

²Approximately \$17,731 is required for nine months' salary in FY 20. This cost is annualized in FY 21 (\$23,641).

Fund revenue that will be generated from CHW certification cannot be determined at this time.

For illustrative purposes, if DPH were to establish a \$100 initial certification application fee, and an annual renewal fee of \$100, General Fund revenue of approximately \$40,000 would be generated in FY 20 and approximately \$41,500 would be generated in FY 21.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of individuals that seek CHW certification, and the associated fees and timeframes established by DPH.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 859*****AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2020, to establish a certification program for community health workers and authorizes the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations. (It does not specify education, training, or other certification requirements for these workers.)

The bill also eliminates an obsolete provision requiring the Office of Health Strategy to study and report to the legislature by October 1, 2018, on the feasibility of creating such a certification program. (The office completed the report in September 2018.)

By law, community health workers are public health outreach professionals with an in-depth understanding of a community's experience, language, culture, and socioeconomic needs, who perform specific tasks. Among other things, they (1) serve as liaisons between community members and health care and social service providers and (2) provide a range of services, including outreach, advocacy, and care coordination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/29/2019)