

CHAPTER 593

(House Bill 1224)

AN ACT concerning

State and County Appropriations - Local Health Services

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing a formula for the financing of local health services in the counties; specifying the staffing ratios for local health services; specifying the method of calculating the estimated minimum budget for local health services for a county; providing that the counties pay an adjusted share of the local estimated minimum budgets for local health services under certain circumstances; specifying the method of calculating the State share of a county's estimated minimum budget; specifying the use of certain appropriations; requiring the Governor to include a certain amount of funding for local health services beginning with a certain fiscal year; in certain fiscal years; specifying the use of certain appropriations; requiring a certain minimum level of funding for each subdivision under certain circumstances; requiring certain allocations under certain circumstances; establishing a certain committee to review and make certain recommendations regarding the funding of local health services; specifying the membership and duties of the committee; and generally relating to establishing a formula and method of financing and funding for local health services in the counties.~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland was the first state in the nation to have a local health department in each subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Local health department programs focus on prevention; and

WHEREAS, Local health programs are a critical component to protecting the public health; and

WHEREAS, A continuous and definitive State commitment for local health funding is necessary for local health departments to institute sensible and effective long term prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Since Fiscal Year 1956, State distributions to and subdivision allocations for local health have been based on the "Case formula" (named after Richard Case); and

WHEREAS, The Case formula reflects a funding partnership between the State and the subdivisions that acknowledges that both levels of government are responsible for supporting public health services; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of a national policy for the delivery of health services will impact local health programs; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that a review of the system for the delivery of local health services is needed, but that during this review a definitive State funding commitment for local health programs must be enacted; now, therefore,