

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1072
Ways and Means

(Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)

Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs - Established

This bill establishes a task force to evaluate existing school civic literacy programs, determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic education, and make recommendations for implementing a civic education program. Findings and recommendations are due to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) by December 1, 2005. MSDE must provide staff for the task force.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates July 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Reimbursement for expenses for task force members and providing staff support could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held in September 2003 and a second conference was held in December 2004. The conferences strive to reaffirm the civic mission of schools. Maryland's delegation to the conference includes two members of the General Assembly and one staff member from MSDE. In January 2004, the Maryland delegation held a State Conference on Civic Education attended by over 40 participants. The group agreed to identify gaps in quality

civic education, develop a web page with links to State and national civic education resources, establish a database of civic education stakeholders in Maryland, and identify needed policy changes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2005
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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510