

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 128 (Senator Raskin, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Public Schools - Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and Civic Responsibility for Students

This bill authorizes a local board of education to establish a program of education to be held annually on “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day” (September 17) to teach students about the U.S. Constitution and the Maryland Constitution. The program may include assemblies, discussions, presentations, and events commemorating the constitutions; the opportunity for eligible students to register to vote; and efforts to reinforce existing curricula.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$7,500 annually beginning in FY 2009 to print and distribute voter registration applications to high schools that offer students the opportunity to register to vote. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) could add programming on the Maryland Constitution to available Constitution Day instructional materials with existing resources. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Net Effect	\$0	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local school systems could add programming on the Maryland Constitution to Constitution Day instructional materials with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public Law 108-477 was signed into law December 8, 2004 as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005. Among other provisions, the Act requires all schools receiving federal funds to hold instructional programs on the U.S. Constitution on September 17, the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for the State Board of Elections could increase by an estimated \$7,500 annually beginning in fiscal 2009, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2007 effective date. The added expenses would support the printing of additional voter registration applications and the distribution of applications to Maryland high schools. The estimate assumes that the applications will simply be made available to students and that a more comprehensive voter registration drive is not required by the bill.

MSDE advises that all schools have been in compliance with the federal law requiring educational programming on the U.S. Constitution and does not anticipate any additional costs to add programming on the Maryland Constitution to the existing instructional materials.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2007
mll/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2007

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