

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 59

(Delegate Hixson, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Explore the Incorporation of the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Education Systems in Maryland

This bill establishes a Task Force to Explore the Incorporation of the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Education Systems in Maryland. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff support for the task force. A final report with findings and recommendations is due by December 31, 2010.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010, and terminates June 30, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Due to federal special education funding, the bill’s task force staffing requirement can be handled by MSDE with existing resources; however, general fund expenditures increase by approximately \$6,500 in FY 2011 to reimburse task force members for expenses and other administrative expenses. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	6,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$6,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force is charged with:

- studying the effectiveness of Universal Design for Learning as a framework for guiding curriculum design;
- studying the feasibility of incorporating and applying the principles of Universal Design for Learning into the elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and higher education systems in Maryland;
- studying the feasibility of evaluating the implementation of Universal Design for Learning principles and the effect on student outcomes;
- making recommendations relating to the incorporation of the principles of Universal Design for Learning by local boards of education in the development of local system policies and procedures; and
- drafting proposed regulations incorporating the findings of the task force.

Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Background: Universal Design for Learning is an approach to education curriculum design in which curriculum is intentionally and systemically designed from the beginning to address students' individual differences. Universal Design for Learning specifically recommends the use of flexible instruction materials, techniques, and strategies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Center for Applied Special Technology, National Center on Universal Design for Learning, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2010
ncs/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2010
Revised - Clarification - April 6, 2010

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