

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 81

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -  
Higher Education Commission)

Finance

Appropriations

---

**Higher Education - Assistance Efforts for Family Investment Program Recipients  
- Repeal**

---

This departmental bill repeals a requirement that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) identify, promote, and coordinate specified activities at institutions of higher education related to recipients of Family Investment Program (FIP) services. The bill also repeals the related reporting requirements.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill generally conforms statute to current practice. Eliminating the reporting requirement allows higher education institutions and MHEC to dedicate those resources toward other projects.

**Local Effect:** Eliminating the reporting requirement allows community colleges to dedicate those resources toward other projects.

**Small Business Effect:** MHEC has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In cooperation with DHR, MHEC is required to (1) identify and promote efforts at institutions of higher education to provide assistance to FIP service recipients;

and (2) coordinate efforts among institutions of higher education to encourage and identify student volunteers to help FIP service recipients with educational and employment-related services.

An institution of higher education must meet with the local department of social services about developing services for FIP service recipients in the jurisdiction in which the institution is located and advise the local department of the available services. By September 15 of each year, an institution of higher education must provide MHEC with a report on the efforts. MHEC must submit a report to the Joint Committee on Welfare Reform by December 1 of each year.

**Background:** FIP is designed to support family efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through services and financial aid geared to individual family needs. FIP services include programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Cash Assistance, Temporary Disability to Adult Program, Emergency Assistance for Families with Children, burial assistance, day care subsidies, child support, and the Maryland Energy Assistance Program.

MHEC reports that, although the program was innovative during the 1997 welfare reform process, the program is no longer relevant to the approach of the various campuses in implementing their outreach efforts, which extend beyond FIP recipients. In addition, due to budgetary constraints, organizational restructuring, and changing priorities, the majority of campuses no longer have an office dedicated to this function.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources, Maryland Higher Education Commission, University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2011  
mm/rhh

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Higher Education – Assistance Efforts for Family Investment  
Program Recipients - Repeal

BILL NUMBER: SB 81

PREPARED BY: Maryland Higher Education Commission

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

☒ WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESS

OR

☐ WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.