

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 34 (Delegates Malone and Aumann)  
 Appropriations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland - Sunset Extension**

This bill extends the termination date for the Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland by one year to May 31, 2012. The bill also extends the date on which the commission’s final report is due to January 1, 2012.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Staffing costs for the commission and expense reimbursements for commission members total \$25,000 in FY 2012. These expenditures can be handled with existing resources within the University of Maryland, College Park.

(in dollars)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Higher Ed Exp.	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$25,000)	\$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**

**Current Law:** The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2011. The commission is scheduled to terminate on May 31, 2011.

**Background:** Immigration policy is increasingly becoming a topic of interest for many people in Maryland and throughout the nation. With comprehensive immigration reform stalled at the federal level, State and local officials are being asked to address various issues relating to immigration and, in particular, the perceived effects of unauthorized immigration. To gain a broader understanding of the economic and fiscal issues surrounding immigration, the General Assembly passed legislation in 2008 establishing the Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland. In 2010, the commission began its deliberations by examining the demographic and socioeconomic profile of the State's immigrant community. The commission was also presented with information concerning the economics of immigration, federal and State immigration enforcement programs, local law enforcement policies, and compliance efforts with the federal REAL ID requirement. Throughout its deliberations, the commission has compiled a compendium of research reports and publications relating to immigrants at the national and State levels. This information, along with public presentations, will guide commission members in presenting its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly. The commission released an interim status report in January 2011.

#### *Extent of International Immigration to Maryland*

Maryland remains an attractive State for immigrants, due in part to its proximity to the nation's capital and its relatively strong business climate in comparison to other states. International immigration added nearly 200,000 people to the State's population between 2000 and 2009 (**Exhibit 1**). This was the thirteenth largest gain from immigration among all states during that period. From 2000 to 2009, Maryland accounted for 2% of the total national population gain from international immigration.

Immigration to Maryland is concentrated in the suburban Washington region, which includes Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Approximately 73% of immigrants arriving in Maryland since 2000 decided to locate in these counties. Montgomery County is the most popular locality for immigrants to Maryland, with 47% of all recent immigrants deciding to live in the county. Between 2000 and 2009, Montgomery County added 89,400 people through international immigration, and Prince George's County added 46,900. Montgomery and Prince George's counties gained more than twice as many people through international immigration than the rest of the State combined. Other jurisdictions with considerable population gains from immigration during these years include Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Howard County.

**Exhibit 1**  
**International Immigration to Maryland**  
**April 2000 to July 2009**

<b>County</b>	<b>International Migration</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>County Ranking</b>
Allegany	117	0.1%	21
Anne Arundel	4,978	2.6%	6
Baltimore City	11,254	5.9%	4
Baltimore	16,928	8.9%	3
Calvert	432	0.2%	17
Caroline	663	0.3%	12
Carroll	839	0.4%	10
Cecil	509	0.3%	14
Charles	447	0.2%	15
Dorchester	77	0.0%	23
Frederick	2,757	1.4%	7
Garrett	54	0.0%	24
Harford	1,691	0.9%	8
Howard	9,680	5.1%	5
Kent	86	0.0%	22
Montgomery	89,435	46.8%	1
Prince George's	46,919	24.5%	2
Queen Anne's	433	0.2%	16
St. Mary's	302	0.2%	20
Somerset	308	0.2%	19
Talbot	367	0.2%	18
Washington	814	0.4%	11
Wicomico	1,589	0.8%	9
Worcester	583	0.3%	13
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>191,262</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The number of immigrants arriving in the United States and Maryland has been decreasing in the last three years, reflecting both the economic downturn as well as increased enforcement along the U.S.-Mexican border. Immigration to the United States in 2009 declined by 15% from 2006 levels, while immigration to Maryland declined by 16%. Even with this recent decline in the number of new immigrants, international immigration remains an important factor affecting the overall population growth in Maryland and select counties. International immigration accounted for 48% of Maryland's total population growth between 2000 and 2009. During that period, Maryland gained a total of 402,900 residents, of whom 191,300 came to the State through immigration.

A significant portion of Maryland's immigrants are not in lawful immigration status, according to estimates made by private research organizations. The Pew Hispanic Center, which does not take positions on policy issues, estimated that, there were 250,000 unauthorized immigrants in the State in 2009, with a range of between 210,000 and 300,000. Maryland had the tenth highest number of such immigrants among the states that year, according to the center. The Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates reducing immigration, estimated that, in 2007, there were 268,000 immigrants in Maryland who were not in lawful immigration status. This estimate was based on an analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 *Current Population Survey*.

**State Effect:** The University System of Maryland advises that the cost of continuing to staff the commission for an additional year will total \$25,000 in fiscal 2012. This estimate includes (1) eight weeks of salary for a research associate; (2) four weeks of salary for an undergraduate assistant; and (3) operating expenses for supplies, communications, and travel.

Research Associate (salary for 8 weeks)	\$22,000
Undergraduate Assistant (salary for 4 weeks)	1,700
Operating Expenses	<u>1,300</u>
	<b>\$25,000</b>

Legislative Services assumes that any expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for the commission can continue to be handled with existing resources within the University of Maryland, College Park. Additional State general funds would not be required for the one-year extension of the commission.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 15 (Senator Madaleno) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management, Governor's Office, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2011  
ncs/hlb

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