

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Revised

Senate Bill 433

(Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Task Force to Study the Establishment of Educational Programs for Adult Learners

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Establishment of Educational Programs for Adult Learners. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) are required to staff the task force. A report with findings and recommendations is due by December 1, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$18,500 in FY 2014, which reflects the cost of hiring one part-time contractual employee within DLLR to staff the task force and produce the required report. MSDE can provide minimal supplemental staffing using existing resources. Reimbursements for task force members can be handled with existing resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	18,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$18,500)	\$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 must determine whether a structure for establishing and operating educational programs for adult learners is needed and would be beneficial to the State; and if so, study and make recommendations on specified matters including the appropriate structure, funding, accountability, and statutory structure for the programs.

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.

**Current Law/Background:** MSDE coordinates and oversees elementary and secondary education in the State, including charter schools, and operates the External High School Diploma Program among other functions. The State Board of Education awards high school diplomas to students who meet State requirements.

Adult Education and Literacy Services is located within DLLR. Its mission is to provide leadership for the establishment of adult education goals, oversight for implementation of the federal Adult Education State Plan, and administration of the statewide general equivalency development (GED). The Adult Education and Literacy Program delivers literacy and English language instruction and high school diploma options for adults and out-of-school youth. The office oversees Maryland's Adult Instructional Services and GED testing programs. Instructional programs include Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, including GED test preparation and the National External Diploma Program, English for Speakers of Other Languages, English Literacy/Civics education, Family Literacy, and Workplace Education. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2014 budget for the program contains \$2.8 million including approximately \$961,000 in State general funds, approximately \$622,000 in special funds, and \$1.2 million in federal funds.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$18,503 in fiscal 2014 which reflects a 30-day start-up delay and the bill's June 1, 2013 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time (50%) contractual employee within DLLR to staff the task force and produce the required report. It includes a part-time salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, ongoing operating expenses, and assumes termination of the contractual employee on December 31, 2013. The bill requires MSDE and DLLR to share the staffing responsibilities; however, only one part-time contractual employee will be required to complete the report. It has been assigned to DLLR because DLLR is responsible for adult education. MSDE staff can provide any required input using existing resources. This estimate assumes that DLLR and MSDE will absorb any additional expenditures related to reimbursements for the task force members.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$13,767
Operating Expenses and Start-up Costs	4,736
<b>Total FY 2014 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$18,503</b>

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; literacypolicy.org; KHON 2; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2013  
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