

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 58 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor,
Licensing and Regulation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Adult Education and Literacy Services - High School Diploma by Examination -
Eligibility Requirements

This departmental bill repeals the minimum three-month State residency requirement for individuals who are seeking to obtain a high school diploma by examination in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues will increase by approximately \$45 per student if additional individuals take the general educational development (GED) test as a result of eliminating the three-month residency requirement, which may reduce general fund expenditures necessary to support the program. Any additional workload due to additional individuals choosing to take the GED test can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual who has resided in this State or on a federal reservation in this State for at least three months may obtain a high school diploma by examination through the GED program. To qualify, an individual must be at least age 16 and may not

have already obtained a high school diploma. The individual must also have officially withdrawn from a regular public or private school. The Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation may waive the residency requirement when justified.

Background: Chapter 134 of 2008 (SB 203) consolidated adult education, literacy services, and correctional institutions' education programs within DLLR. Chapter 113 of 2010 (SB 966) repealed the three-month waiting period for an individual who had withdrawn from high school before seeking a diploma by examination.

DLLR reports that the elimination of the three-month residency requirement may provide an additional incentive for affected individuals to take the GED test, thus allowing more individuals to advance their education and move closer to gaining industry-valued skills and earning the credentials necessary to find meaningful work.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2013
ncs/rhh

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Labor and Employment – Adult Education – High School Diploma
by Examination

BILL NUMBER: SB 58

PREPARED BY: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

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.