

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 823

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program -
Membership, Duties, and Extension

This bill extends the reporting deadline for the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program from December 30, 2015, to December 30, 2016, and extends the termination date of Chapter 411 of 2015, which established the task force, from June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2017. The bill also adds to the membership of the task force and adds to the task force's mandate by requiring that it (1) make recommendations regarding how the terms "dyslexia" and "targeted students" should be defined and (2) determine the components and costs of successful dyslexia education programs established in other states.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can staff the task force for another year using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 411 of 2015 established the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program. MSDE must provide staff support for the task force. The task force must determine current practices for identifying

and treating dyslexia in students in Maryland public schools and in other states; determine the appropriate structure for establishing a dyslexia education program and make specified related recommendations; and develop a pilot program to initiate the implementation of the task force's recommendations in an appropriately limited geographical area. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and the House Ways and Means Committee by December 30, 2015. The task force sunsets after June 30, 2016.

Background: Dyslexia is characterized by an unexpected difficulty in reading in individuals who otherwise possess the intelligence and motivation needed for accurate and fluent reading. An often cited *New England Journal of Medicine* article indicates that the prevalence of dyslexia among school-age children in the United States is estimated to range from 5% to 17%.

In December 2015, the task force submitted a request to the Governor; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and the House Ways and Means Committee for an extension until June 30, 2016, to complete its work and submit its report.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 895 (Delegate Kaiser) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, *Society of Biological Psychiatry*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2016
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