

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1195
Ways and Means

(Delegate Adams, *et al.*)

**High School Graduation Requirements - Student Service - Fire Fighting Training
and Volunteer Hours**

This bill requires that fire fighting training and volunteer hours may be used to satisfy the student service requirement if a student is required to complete hours of service to graduate from high school.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Local school systems can accept fire fighting training and volunteer hours to satisfy the student service requirement using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education must establish minimum requirements for issuing certificates and diplomas by public and private high schools. The promotion of students in a public school and graduation from a public high school must be in accordance with (1) policies established by the local board of education and (2) the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Each student who graduates from a public high school must receive the same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended or the course

taken. The diploma or certificate must state that the student has completed a program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of the State Board of Education.

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations, to be awarded a high school diploma, a student must complete the enrollment, credit, and service requirements; any local school system graduation requirements; and meet the graduation assessment requirements. The student service requirement may be met by completing 75 hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; or a locally designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

In Montgomery County, central office and school-based staff review which hours are eligible for student service learning hours credit. Montgomery County Public Schools advises that fire fighting training and volunteer hours would not be compliant with current guidelines. However, requiring these hours to satisfy the student service requirement has no fiscal impact on local school systems.

Baltimore County Public Schools advises that under its service learning requirements fire fighting training and volunteer hours would be allowed to count as student service learning hours if a student were to follow the procedures to get the hours preapproved as independent hours by the school service learning coordinator. Preapproved independent hours count toward the student service learning graduation requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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fn/rhh

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