

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 631
Ways and Means

(Delegate Adams, *et al.*)

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

This bill requires that firefighting 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, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school systems can accept firefighting 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.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools, and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) advise that the bill has no fiscal impact. MCPS further advises that it currently accepts student service learning hours earned from Montgomery County government or MCPS entities. Any training in preparation for the service learning activity is also accepted for service learning hours.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1195 of 2017 received an unfavorable report (withdrawn) from the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2019
mm/rhh

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510