

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 711  
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)  
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Inclusion of Out-of-Home Placement Data

This bill adds placement data from State-sponsored out-of-home care to the data collected, analyzed, and reported on by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center. To that end, the bill adds the Social Services Administration within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the entities required to provide data sets to MLDS. The center must develop a clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard that is published annually on the center’s website with information, disaggregated by county, on the experience of children who were provided with out-of-home placement and how out-of-home placement affected their participation in higher education, as specified. In addition, the bill changes the method by which the center annually provides dual enrollment information from a report to a graphic data dashboard.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$63,800 in FY 2020 to hire additional personnel, as discussed below. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

| (in dollars)   | FY 2021    | FY 2022    | FY 2023    | FY 2024    | FY 2025     |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Revenues       | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0         |
| GF Expenditure | 77,200     | 92,800     | 95,100     | 98,400     | 101,800     |
| Net Effect     | (\$77,200) | (\$92,800) | (\$95,100) | (\$98,400) | (\$101,800) |

Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Placement data” means data relating to a child’s experience with State-sponsored out-of-home care and includes supervising jurisdiction, removal reason, characteristics at the time of removal, return reason, placement start and end dates, and placement type.

The center’s purpose is expanded to include the linkage of placement data to existing data sets and the generation of timely and accurate information about children who were provided State-sponsored out-of-home care. In addition to current responsibilities, the center must conduct research on the impact on educational and economic outcomes of childhood out-of-home placement.

DHS and other State agencies must make every effort to comply with the data requirements for MLDS. Placement data is added to the types of data that specified local and State entities must transfer to MLDS in accordance with the data security and safeguarding plan.

In developing its graphic data dashboard on out-of-home placement as required by the bill, the center must include information on:

- the rate of enrollment in institutions of higher education by placement;
- the type of institution of higher education in which out-of-home children are enrolled;
- the type of financial support provided to out-of-home children enrolled in an institution of higher education; and
- the graduation rate for out-of-home children from institutions of higher education.

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 190 of 2010 established MLDS to contain individual-level student data and workforce data from all levels of education and the State’s workforce. The legislation also established the MLDS Center within State government to serve as a central repository for the data, to ensure compliance with federal privacy laws, to perform research on the data sets, and to fulfill education reporting requirements and approved public information requests. The MLDS Center is administratively housed within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The purpose of the data system is to facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions within the State as well as generate timely and accurate information about student achievement that can be used to improve the State’s education system and guide decision makers at all levels. The data system allows users to effectively organize, manage, disaggregate, and analyze individual student data and to examine

student progress and outcomes over time, including preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce.

The MLDS Center may only use de-identified data in the analysis, research, and reporting conducted by the center. The center may only use aggregate data in the release of data in reports and in response to data requests.

Student data collected by MLDS includes State and national assessments; course taking and completion; grade point average; remediation; retention; degree, diploma, or credential attainment; enrollment; demographic data; juvenile delinquency records; and elementary and secondary school disciplinary records. Criminal records, children in need of assistance records, and medical and health records are specifically excluded from the types of data that MLDS may collect.

Local school systems, community colleges, public four-year institutions of higher education, and State agencies are required to transfer student-level and transcript-level data as well as workforce data to MLDS.

By December 15 of each year, the center must report the number of students who are dually enrolled, disaggregated by local school system.

The MLDS Center has a liaison position for three of the partner agencies that provide student and workforce data (MSDE; the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and the Maryland Department of Labor). The liaisons provide technical and administrative support for the partner agencies and provide the center with subject matter expertise and management support in the use and administration of the data. The liaisons are fully funded by the MLDS Center, but they perform 50% of their job duties for the partner agency. The center advises that this model has been very successful in ensuring good data governance and an efficient and collaborative working relationship with the partner agencies. MLDS did not receive a liaison position for the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) when Chapter 688 of 2019 added DJS as a MLDS partner agency; thus, the MLDS Center has engaged the services of a researcher at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW).

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$77,242 in fiscal 2021, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2020 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of the MLDS Center hiring one full-time database specialist and DHS liaison to transfer data between DHS and MLDS. The duties include analyzing and validating data to be transferred by DHS, conducting any functions necessary to transform the data to meet the business and technical needs of the MLDS database, and developing the required out-of-home placement graphic data dashboard. The position will also analyze and interpret data requests received by the MLDS Center related to DHS data. Finally, the position will serve

as a liaison between the two agencies to address matters concerning interagency issues, projects, and data management. The estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Position                                | 1.0             |
| Salary and Fringe Benefits              | \$71,876        |
| One-time Start-up Expenses              | 4,890           |
| Ongoing Operating Expenses              | <u>476</u>      |
| <b>Total FY 2021 State Expenditures</b> | <b>\$77,242</b> |

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

Providing a liaison position for DHS is consistent with the existing best practices operational model. Alternatively, another SSW contractor could be hired – at an annual cost of almost \$50,000 – but MLDS advises this model may not be the best governance for the MLDS Center.

Changing the method by which the MLDS Center annually provides dual enrollment information from a report to a graphic data dashboard has no fiscal impact.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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