

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 160
Ways and Means

(Delegate Acevero)

Elementary and Secondary Schools - Workplace Readiness Week -
Establishment

This bill establishes the third week of April as Workplace Readiness Week in public elementary and secondary schools in the State. Each local board of education must establish a program of education to be held during the week to teach students about (1) local, State, and federal labor laws, as specified; (2) the history of the labor movement in the United States; (3) apprenticeship programs in the State; and (4) alternative career paths for individuals who do not attend an institution of higher education. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at local school systems.

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase minimally in FY 2025 to develop curriculum and train teachers on the curriculum. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State public schools must devote a part of at least one day to appropriate exercises for each of the following: Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans' Day; Columbus Day; Arbor Day; Black History Month, as specified; and any other day of national significance.

The first federal Youth Apprenticeship Week, which addresses some of the required topics, is scheduled for May 5-11, 2024.

Local Expenditures: Local school system expenditures may experience a minimal increase in fiscal 2025 to develop curriculum for teaching the mandated topics and to train teachers on the curriculum. The costs are primarily influenced by local decisions regarding implementation and the extent to which local school systems already cover the required material.

For example, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) estimates that each teacher in their 211 schools would require six hours of training at their standard hourly rate, leading to an approximate expenditure increase of \$76,300 in fiscal 2025. MCPS has projected similar annual costs beyond fiscal 2025; however, the Department of Legislative Services advises that no additional measurable costs are expected in future years.

Other local school systems did not provide specific cost estimates; nevertheless, several expressed the need to develop a coordinated curriculum and train teachers, resulting in additional costs.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Labor; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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