

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1073 (Delegate C. Davis)

Judiciary

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Education Coordinating Council for Correctional Institutions

This amended bill requires all Division of Correction inmates without a verified high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) to participate in mandatory education programs for at least 120 calendar days or in a vocational training program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's provisions could be provided with existing staff within the Maryland State Department of Education at no additional cost to the State.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Additional Comments: The Governor's fiscal 1997 budget allowance includes \$8,986,497 to fund correctional education programs. In addition, the Governor's Supplemental Budget No. 2 includes \$2.7 million to restore 51 correctional education positions that were not included in the original 1997 budget allowance. MSDE advises the restoration of the funding and teaching positions would enable the department to fulfill the bill's requirement with existing resources.

The Department of Fiscal Services notes that correctional education reduces inmate idleness and thus tension in correctional facilities. In addition, a recent study showed Maryland inmates with a GED certificate had a 36% recidivism rate while inmates without a GED had a 46% recidivism rate. Any fiscal impact due to reductions in inmate idleness and recidivism cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Division of Correction, Parole Commission), Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 1996

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Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 1996

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