

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 708 (Senator Trotter, et al.)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Appropriations

Higher Education - Bowie State University - State Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Violence Prevention

This enrolled bill recognizes the State Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Violence Prevention at Bowie State University. The center will serve as the central repository for information on violence prevention programs and is authorized to implement volunteer prevention networks, and provide violence prevention research/evaluation, training programs, and media services. The center will be supported by funds as provided in the annual budget of Bowie State University and by any other source of funds.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures in FY 1998 could increase by up to an estimated \$2 million to support additional operating costs. Expenditures could be reduced to the extent that revenue from federal or private foundation grants is available or that university tuition and fees is used to offset general fund support.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Bowie State University operated a Violence Prevention Education Project funded through a private three-year grant of \$500,000 from 1991 through 1994.

State Revenues: In the past (1994 session), Bowie State University has advised that revenues may be available from the federal government or from private foundations to provide funding for a State Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Violence Prevention. The Department of Fiscal Services is unable to verify whether potential funding from these sources is still available.

State Expenditures: The University of Maryland System advises that this bill could significantly expand the functions and scope of the Violence Prevention Education Project and would therefore require a major increase in funding. The university estimates a cost of \$1.7 million annually to staff and operate a State Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Violence Prevention. These costs would be necessary to provide the following functions: (1) research and evaluation; (2) collection and distribution of information; (3) operation and approval of various programs; (4) statewide training for violence prevention; and (5) media relations.

Since the bill neither prohibits nor requires the use of general funds to support the center's operations, it is assumed that general fund expenditures could increase by up to an estimated \$2 million to support additional operating costs, assuming a full-year's funding. Expenditures could be reduced to the extent that revenue from federal or private foundation grants is available or that university tuition and fees is used to provide funding support.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, University of Maryland System, Department of Fiscal Services

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