

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1336 (Delegate Cadden, *et al.*)  
Appropriations

Referred to Budget and Taxation

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**Education - Maryland Adult External High School Program - Funding**

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This amended bill requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for fiscal 1998 through 2001 a general fund appropriation for the Maryland External High School Program in an amount not less than the Governor's general fund appropriation for the program in fiscal 1996. In addition, the Governor is required to include federal funds, to the extent available, for the program in an amount not less than was provided in fiscal 1996. The bill requires the State Board of Education to conduct an evaluation of the program and to report the results to the General Assembly by December 31, 2000.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997 and sunsets June 30, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$281,070 annually in FY 1998 through 2001. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in State funding to local boards of education for the adult external high school diploma program. Expenditures would not be directly affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** The Maryland Adult External High School Diploma Program provides an alternative way for adults who did not complete high school to earn a State high school diploma. The program is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in partnership with local education agencies. Since its inception in 1978, approximately 11,000 adults have earned a high school diploma through the program. In

1996, there were 358 graduates and 850 adults participating in the program. The program has not received a State appropriation since fiscal 1996, as illustrated in **Exhibit 1**.

**State Effect:** The Maryland Adult External High School Program's fiscal 1996 State appropriation totaled \$281,070, thus the bill would require a minimum general fund appropriation of \$281,070 for fiscal 1998 through fiscal 2001.

In addition, to the extent that federal funds are available, the State must provide an additional \$225,000 in funding for the program. Accordingly, the Maryland Adult External High School Program would receive at least \$506,070 in State and federal funding each year until fiscal 2002.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Program Funding for Fiscal 1995-1997**

Fiscal Year	Federal	State	Local	Total
1995	\$225,000	\$281,070	\$403,796	\$909,866
1996	\$225,000	\$281,070	\$483,015	\$989,085
1997	\$381,953	\$0	\$388,023	\$769,976

**Local Effect:** State funding to local boards of education for the adult external high school diploma program could increase by an indeterminate amount, depending upon what portion of the State appropriation for the program would be provided to local school systems.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 1997  
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