

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 842 (Delegates Howard and Rawlings)

Ways and Means

---

Education - Odyssey of the Mind Teams - Funding

---

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education to distribute a grant to an Odyssey of the Mind Team in the State that competes in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The grant cannot exceed 50% of the team's costs to compete in the world finals. The Governor must include at least \$75,000 in the State budget each year, beginning in fiscal 2000, to pay the cost of State Odyssey of the Minds teams competing in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999 and sunsets June 30, 2001.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by at least \$75,000 annually in FY 2000 and 2001. General fund revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** Odyssey of the Mind is a program that fosters creative thinking and problem solving skills among participating teams of students in kindergarten through college. It features annual competitions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Students solve problems in a variety of areas from building mechanical devices to giving their own interpretation of literary classics. Between 15 and 20 teams from Maryland compete at the World Finals each year. It costs approximately \$7,500 per team to compete at the World

Finals. Accordingly, State expenditures would increase by around \$75,000 annually in fiscal 2000 and 2001.

The 1999 World Finals will be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on May 26 - 29.

---

**Information Source:** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 1999  
dmm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 1999

---

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510