

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 900 (Senator Blount)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Forms Management - Extension of Implementation Date for School Data

This bill extends the implementation date for the applicability of standards for racial identification in State government data collection forms for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local boards of education from January 1, 2002, to July 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Federal regulations addressing racial identification in the collection of school data have not been issued. Providing MSDE with an additional 18 months to comply with the State standards for data collection forms would enable the department to commence data collections with the new standards once federal regulations have been issued.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In the Fall of 1997, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Revised Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. In order to conform State forms with these revised standards the General Assembly passed House Bill 253 (Chapter 459) during the 1998 session. This Act authorizes that, in the preparation of a form that requires identification of individuals by race, a department or independent unit of State government will include the following racial categories, of which respondents may pick more than one: (1) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (2) Asian; (3) Black or African American; (4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and (5) White.

The Act also requires that there be a separate question about whether a respondent is of Hispanic or Latino origin, with that question preceding the racial category question. All relevant data forms must reflect these standards no later than January 1, 2002.

State Fiscal Effect: The U.S. Department of Education is currently developing new racial and ethnic categories for its data reporting forms to comply with OMB standards, but has made no final decision on when its data collection forms will be amended to reflect these changes. The U.S. Department of Education has until January 1, 2003, to adopt the new federal standards.

The Maryland State Department of Education believes that the discrepancy in the deadlines for compliance with the federal and State standards is problematic with regard to MSDE's forms that serve as the basis for reporting race and ethnic data to the federal government. If MSDE's forms are changed to reflect the new State standards before the federal forms are changed, MSDE will be out of compliance with current federal reporting requirements. This bill enables MSDE to commence data collections with the new State standards once new federal regulations have been issued.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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