

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 80 Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)
(Departmental – Higher Education Commission)

Commerce and Government Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Forms Management - Higher Education

This departmental bill extends, for institutions of higher education and for the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the deadline established for ensuring that State government forms meet specific standards. The deadline is extended to be consistent with the schedule established by the U.S. Department of Education for institutions of higher education, but may not extend beyond January 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Extending the deadline for compliance with State government standards on forms would not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: Data collection forms used by institutions of higher education and by MHEC must comply with State government standards by January 1, 2002. The standards require a specified approach for identifying race on forms and ensure that agency forms are well-organized, easy to understand, and as unintrusive as possible.

Background: According to MHEC, the purpose of the legislation is to synchronize the implementation timetable of State law on racial identification with federal race/ethnicity reporting requirements currently under review. Aligning the State and federal deadlines would allow institutions of higher education to comply with both sets of standards at once. A State workgroup created by MHEC has recommended that the two sets of standards be met concurrently.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 16, 2001
ncs/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 19, 2001

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