

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Joint Resolution 11 (Delegate Greenip, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

State Board of Education - Oversight of Curricula and Textbooks to Assure Against Use of Nonverified Information

This joint resolution requests the State Board of Education to oversee a comprehensive review by local boards of education of all curricula and textbooks for kindergarten through grade 12. The review will determine if curricula and textbooks are: (1) designed to enhance the acquisition of knowledge; (2) based on scientific principles, concepts, and facts; and (3) presented in language appropriate for education. If any textbooks or curricula do not meet these requirements, the State board is requested to direct the local board to replace the curricula or textbooks.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution would increase general fund expenditures by an estimated \$297,200 in FY 2003 to support contractual personnel to oversee local curriculum and textbook reviews. FY 2004 and 2005 expenditures reflect annualization, salary increases, and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	297,200	348,600	356,500	0	0
Net Effect	(\$297,200)	(\$348,600)	(\$356,500)	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures would increase if additional personnel are needed to conduct comprehensive reviews of curricula and textbooks. Expenditures for textbooks and other instructional materials could also increase.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of education establishes curriculum guides and courses of study for the schools under its jurisdiction. The curricula established by local boards must meet COMAR requirements established and adopted by the State Board of Education.

State Expenditures: If the State board and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) fully comply with this resolution, general fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$297,247 in fiscal 2003, which assumes a start-up date of October 1, 2002. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring four contractual education curriculum specialists, one contractual program manager to coordinate the review, and two contractual administrative assistants to aid the team. The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- Each of the four curriculum specialists would work with local curriculum personnel at six local school systems to conduct and oversee the reviews.
- The reviews would cover curricula for all content areas and grade levels as well as instructional materials and textbooks.
- The review would take approximately three years.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$260,279
Travel	3,000
Start-up Expenses	31,710
Other Operating Expenses	<u>2,258</u>
Total FY 2003 State Expenditures	\$297,247

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 2.3% annual increases and 3.8% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Local Expenditures: It is assumed that local curriculum personnel could cooperate with the MSDE review and participate in the reviews as needed. If local systems needed additional personnel to perform the reviews, local school expenditures would increase.

Local school systems generally identify a curriculum revision cycle and budget based on the cycle. If a review by MSDE uncovers a need to alter curricula or update textbooks, a system may not have funding to cover the expense. Local school systems spent approximately \$50 million on textbooks in fiscal 2000. If MSDE directs a local school system to replace textbooks that do not meet State curriculum standards, additional textbook costs for the system could be significant.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2002
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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