

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 531

(Delegate Zirkin, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Finance

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**Education - Task Force to Study the Impact of Community-Based Homes**

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This bill establishes a 15-member Task Force to Study the Impact of Community-Based Homes. The task force must study: (1) the impact of community-based home placements on local school systems and educational services; (2) methods to improve the allocation of education resources for children in community-based homes; (3) the need for after school programs and provider involvement in the schools that children placed in community-based homes attend; and (4) the impact of providing on-site educational instruction in community-based homes on the academic success of children in the homes. The task force may conduct site visits to community-based homes, schools that enroll students living in community-based homes, and community-based home licensing and monitoring programs at State agencies. The task force must report its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2003. The Department of Legislative Services; the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families; and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must staff the task force.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003 and sunsets June 30, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for members and staffing costs for the assigned State agencies could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** A September 2000 Executive Order established the Task Force to Study the Licensing and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes for Children. The task force met from February to September 2001 and submitted a final report in October 2001. The report made several recommendations, including:

- strengthening the regulations surrounding the licensing and monitoring of community-based homes;
- requiring group home administrators to be certified;
- improving training for case workers who work with children placed in community-based homes; and
- providing additional funding for licensing and monitoring operations.

The task force also made some additional recommendations that it acknowledged were outside of the charge it was given. These suggestions included further study of the impact placements have on local schools and recognition of the need for more after school programs and greater provider involvement in schools.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2003  
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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510