

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 545 (Delegate Rawlings)
 Ways and Means

Correctional Education - Waiting List Reduction Initiative

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to reduce the number of inmates on waiting lists for educational programs in correctional institutions over a five-year period, beginning in fiscal 2005. MSDE must create a plan that assures the best use of resources appropriated for the purpose of reducing the waiting list. The plan must be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by February 1 of each year from 2004 to 2009. Each year, the Governor must include sufficient funds in the State budget to implement the bill. General funds appropriated in connection with this initiative that are unexpended at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but remain available for use on the initiative in future fiscal years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$989,700 in FY 2005 to hire additional correctional education teachers. Future year expenditure increases reflect the hiring of more teachers each year to further reduce the waiting lists for correctional education. Revenues would not be affected.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	1.0	2.0	3.2	4.4
Net Effect	\$0	(\$1.0)	(\$2.0)	(\$3.2)	(\$4.4)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Funds for the operation of educational programs in correctional institutions must be provided in the budget for MSDE each year. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and other State agencies may contribute to correctional education programs. Funding provided for correctional education may not be diverted to any other purpose.

Background: As noted in the bill's preamble, a high percentage of Maryland inmates are in need of educational services, and a large number of inmates attempt to enroll in educational programs during their stays in Maryland prisons. MSDE reports a correctional education waiting list of approximately 2,000 inmates.

Inmates who receive educational services while in correctional settings are generally motivated and successful. Fiscal 2002 Managing for Results (MFR) outcomes from MSDE show an attendance rate in correctional education of 95.8% and a GED passing rate of 62.4%. MSDE awarded 1,648 Adult Literacy Certificates and 926 high school completions to inmates in fiscal 2002. Fiscal 2002 MFR outcomes also showed, however, that only 46.0% of eligible inmates were being served.

The proposed fiscal 2004 State budget includes \$15 million for the MSDE Division of Correctional Education. The proposed amount includes \$13.2 million in general funds, \$1.5 million in federal funds, and \$360,000 in reimburseable funds from DPSCS.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$989,700 in fiscal 2005 to hire more teachers for correctional education programs and more administrative staff to maintain inmate educational records. In future years, costs would increase as additional personnel are hired to further reduce correctional education waiting lists. By fiscal 2008, with still one year before the reduction plan would be fully implemented, the expenditure increase would be an estimated \$4.4 million. These estimates are based on the following information and assumptions.

- Sufficient classroom space for correctional education programs already exists. Waiting lists have formed because of the lack of correctional education teachers and the lack of funding for correctional education programs.
- MSDE could develop a waiting list reduction plan and submit the first required report in fiscal 2004 without additional costs to the agency. The plan would include the methods that would be used to attract and retain more correctional education teachers and estimates of the funding needed to hire the additional teachers.

- There are approximately 2,000 inmates on correctional education waiting lists. The goal would be to reduce this number to 200 inmates by fiscal 2009, with 20% of the difference (360 inmates) eliminated each year.
- Assuming that class sizes would average 15 students and that two sessions (morning and afternoon) could be taught each day, a teacher could serve 30 inmates per day. Therefore, 12 new teachers (12 x 30 = 360) would be needed annually from fiscal 2005 to 2009.
- In addition to the teachers, one new teacher supervisor would be needed in fiscal 2005, and four new administrative assistants would also be phased in by fiscal 2007 to maintain the additional inmate records.
- Costs of approximately \$40 per inmate and \$130 per staff member would also be incurred for instructional materials and administrative supplies.

	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$973,340	\$1,979,243
Supplies and materials	<u>16,382</u>	<u>32,959</u>
Total State Expenditures	\$989,722	\$2,012,202

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) the hiring of additional teachers each year; (2) salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (3) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2003
mam/hlb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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