

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1055
Ways and Means

(Delegate Rawlings)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

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

This bill extends the date by which the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local school systems must comply with State standards for data collection forms. The deadline is extended from July 1, 2003 to either July 1, 2006 or the date established by the U.S. Department of Education, whichever is sooner.

The bill is effective June 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any savings resulting from the extension of the deadline for MSDE would not materially impact State finances.

Local Effect: Any savings resulting from the extension of the deadline for local school systems would not materially impact local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Data collection forms used by schools, school systems, and MSDE must comply with State government standards by July 1, 2003. State standards require forms to 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. A form is also required to

include a separate question asking whether the respondent is of Hispanic or Latino origin. In addition to the race identification requirements, State forms must be well-organized, easy to understand, and as unintrusive as possible.

Most other State agencies were required to comply with State standards for data collection forms by January 1, 2002.

Background: The U.S. Department of Education has not finalized its method for identifying racial categories. The extension of the deadline for MSDE to comply with State standards would allow it to align its method for identifying racial and ethnic groups with the U.S. Department of Education's method.

The deadline for MSDE to comply with State standards for data collection forms was last postponed in the 2000 legislative session by SB 900 (Chapter 91). At that time, the deadline was extended for 18 months, from January 1, 2002 to July 1, 2003.

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 - March 7, 2003
mdf/hlb

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