

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 718
Ways and Means

(Delegates Bartlett, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Task Force to Study Extracurricular Activities at Public Schools for Home School and Private School Students

This bill establishes a 15-member Task Force to Study Extracurricular Activities at Public Schools for Home School and Private School Students. The task force must evaluate issues and make recommendations concerning access to extracurricular activities in public schools among home school and private school students. The task force must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2003. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) must provide staff support for the task force.

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for State officials and staffing costs for MSDE, DBM, and DLS could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local officials on the task force could participate with existing local resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools are not statutorily authorized to allow home-schooled students and private school students to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by public schools.

Background: Not including prekindergarten students, there were approximately 145,250 private school students and 19,400 home-schooled students in Maryland in September 2001. Combined, these groups make up approximately 16% of the kindergarten to grade 12 students in the State.

Some school districts across the country have established centers where families may enroll their children in classes or obtain resources and instructional support. Such arrangements are called shared schooling, dual enrollment, or assisted home-schooling. Some school districts also allow home-schooled students to attend public school part-time, and about 18% of home-schooled students exercise this privilege. In addition, approximately 11% of home-schooled students use books or materials from public schools, and 8% use public school curriculums. Approximately 6% of home-schooled students participate in extracurricular activities provided by public schools or school districts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Bills that would have allowed home-schooled students and private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities were defeated in the last two legislative sessions. HB 1088 of 2002 was not reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee, and HB 1072 of 2001 received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2003
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