

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1168 (Delegate Owings)
 Ways and Means

Public Schools - Student Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs - Evaluation

This bill prohibits any public or private entity from evaluating, assessing, or otherwise measuring the personal or family attitudes, values, or beliefs of a public school student through a test authorized for use in a State mandated testing and measurement program or a survey.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Federal fund revenues through the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program could decrease by \$7.4 million annually beginning in FY 2004 due to the prohibition on the collection of student information. General fund and Cigarette Restitution Fund expenditures would decrease by approximately \$300,000 in FY 2005 and 2007 due to the elimination of the Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS).

(\$ in millions)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
FF Revenue	(\$7.4)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.4)
GF Expenditure	0	(.1)	0	(.1)	0
SF Expenditure	0	(.2)	0	(.2)	0
Net Effect	(\$7.4)	(\$7.1)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.1)	(\$7.4)

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

Local Effect: Local school revenues from federal sources would decrease by approximately \$5.4 million annually beginning in FY 2004.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), local boards of education, and schools selected to participate in MAS must cooperate with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in administering the survey. MAS is conducted every two years and provides information on: (1) the nature, extent, and trends of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by the State's sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders; (2) knowledge about the consequences of substance use and abuse; (3) parenting and peer influences; and (4) impaired driving among twelfth graders. MSDE may not discontinue administration of the survey until after it has submitted a report to the Governor and the General Assembly that states the reason for the discontinuation.

Parents are informed about MAS in the school orientation process, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, parent newsletters, and other school announcements. Parents may ask that their children be exempted from participation in MAS, and students are told that participation is not required.

State and Local Revenues: To be eligible for federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funding, states must collect and report data on student drug use and other behavior. If the bill is enacted, Maryland could forfeit this funding beginning in fiscal 2004. Fiscal 2004 federal funding for the program is estimated at \$7.4 million, including \$5.9 million that will go to MSDE and \$1.5 million that will be distributed to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Local school systems receive 92% of the MSDE allocation, or approximately \$5.4 million.

To the extent that MAS could be modified to meet the bill's requirements and federal requirements, reductions in federal funding could be moderated or averted.

State Expenditures: MAS is currently administered every other school year and costs the State approximately \$300,000 each time it is administered. Costs are shared by MSDE, DHMH, and the Department of Transportation. MAS was last administered in December 2002, and the majority of the costs were paid from the Cigarette Restitution Fund. If MSDE is prohibited from administering the survey in future fiscal years, the State would save approximately \$300,000 in fiscal 2005, and every odd-numbered fiscal year thereafter.

Another survey that public school students sometimes take during school hours is the Youth Tobacco Survey. Different populations of students and youths are targeted annually for participation in the survey, including some in-school participants and some out-of-school participants. It is assumed that costs for this survey would not be reduced if the bill passes. Instead, the survey could target populations of youths outside of school.

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 17, 2003
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