

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 106
Ways and Means

(Delegates Gordon and King)

Education - High School Graduation - Students with Disabilities

This bill prohibits the State Board of Education from establishing a class or type of graduation diploma or certificate for a student with disabilities that is tied to the student's passage of the Maryland High School Assessments (HSAs) or any other similar tests.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not impact State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The promotion and graduation of public school students are in accordance with policies established by the local boards of education and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Each student who graduates from a public high school must receive the same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended or the course taken. The diploma must state that the student completed a program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of the State board. Maryland students must pass functional tests in reading, mathematics, and writing in order to be eligible for high school graduation. Students who have permanent or temporary disabilities that interfere with test performance may be offered modifications in the test procedures to compensate for their disabilities.

Background: In December 2003, during deliberations by the State Board of Education about using passage of HSAs as a graduation requirement, a proposal was presented to the board that would allow for several different paths to completion of a high school program. One of the proposed paths was a separate diploma that could be awarded to certain students with disabilities. The proposal also would have students in the class of 2009 be the first who would be required to pass HSAs in order to obtain a Maryland high school diploma. The proposal would also provide for a less prestigious local high school diploma or a certificate of program completion.

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 - February 2, 2004
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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