

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 766

(Delegate Owings, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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**Education - Public Schools - Age Appropriate Curriculum and Instruction**

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This bill requires local boards of education to establish programs of instruction and training that are appropriate for the ages of the students receiving the instruction and are consistent with the television parental guidelines for minors established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). A public school may not provide instruction to a child under 15 years of age without the informed written consent of the child's parent or guardian.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures could increase if curriculums must be revised or new instructional materials or textbooks are needed to comply with the bill.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Local boards of education, with the recommendation of the local superintendents of schools, establish curriculum guides and courses of study for the schools under their jurisdictions. Curricula adopted by local boards must align with State standards.

**Background:** FCC has identified six levels of television parental guidelines.

- *TV-Y*: Programming designed to be appropriate for all children.
- *TV-Y7*: Programming designed for children age seven and above.
- *TV-G*: Programming that most parents would find suitable for all ages.
- *TV-PG*: Programming that contains material that parents may find unsuitable for younger children.
- *TV-14*: Programming that contains some material that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14 years of age.
- *TV-MA*: Programming specifically designed to be viewed by adults and that may be unsuitable for children under 17.

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### **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 16, 2004  
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