

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 318
Ways and Means

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Task Force to Study Differential Diplomas for High School Graduates

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Differential Diplomas for High School Graduates. The task force is required to: (1) review and evaluate a proposed system of differential diplomas; and (2) review and consider the experiences in other states with differential diploma systems. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff for the task force. The task force is required to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2004.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004 and sunsets June 30, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MSDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed the local school system personnel participation would be absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The proposed system of differential diplomas for high school graduates include four types of diplomas based on specified levels of achievement. They are: (1) a Maryland High School Diploma; (2) a Local High School Diploma; (3) a Local High School Individualized Education Program Diploma; and (4) a Local High School Diploma for specified students with learning disabilities.

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 15, 2004
mh/hlb

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