

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 358

(Delegate Stern, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Public Schools - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk  
 Behavior Surveillance System**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish procedures for the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Survey (YRBSS) developed for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MSDE may omit up to one-third of the survey questions if it considers the content inappropriate. MSDE must require local school systems to obtain parental consent before administering the survey. The parental consent form must include a statement explaining how parents can obtain copies of the survey questions that will be administered and other information about the survey.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$68,100 in FY 2005 to administer YRBSS. Future year expenditures reflect administration of YRBSS every other year, annualization, and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditure	68,100	35,800	75,900	40,000	81,800
Net Effect	(\$68,100)	(\$35,800)	(\$75,900)	(\$40,000)	(\$81,800)

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

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures could increase minimally to distribute parental consent forms. It is assumed that the State would pay the full cost of distributing and scoring YRBSS.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Board of Education is not required to develop procedures for the administration of YRBSS or administer the survey.

**Background:** YRBSS was developed in 1990 to measure the prevalence of risk behaviors among adolescents. The behaviors that are measured include:

- tobacco use;
- unhealthy dietary behaviors;
- inadequate physical activity;
- alcohol and other drug use;
- sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- behaviors that contribute to injuries and violence.

According to CDC, YRBSS was designed to determine the prevalence of risk behaviors, assess changes in the prevalence of risk behaviors, and examine the co-occurrence of risk behaviors. CDC administers YRBSS every two years to a representative sample of private and public high school students in the nation. Baltimore City students currently participate in the survey through a grant from CDC. In addition, 34 states administered YRBSS to students in 2001.

Maryland currently administers two biannual surveys that measure youth attitudes and risk factors similar to YRBSS, the Maryland Adolescent Survey and the Youth Tobacco Survey. Unlike YRBSS, however, these surveys do not measure dietary or sexual behaviors.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$68,101 in fiscal 2005, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay and assumes YRBSS would be administered for the first time in spring 2005 and every other year thereafter. The estimate reflects the cost of hiring a half-time education specialist at MSDE to organize and coordinate administration of YRBSS and analyze Maryland survey results. In addition, a three-month contractual employee and other contractual costs would be incurred every other year, when YRBSS is administered. The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, contractual costs, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

	<u><b>FY 2005</b></u>	<u><b>FY 2006</b></u>
Permanent Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$25,996	\$35,480
Contractual Employee	12,000	0
Contractual Costs	25,000	0
Operating Expenses	<u>5,105</u>	<u>369</u>
<b>Total State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,101</b>	<b>\$35,849</b>

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.6% annual increases and 3% employee turnover for permanent employees; (2) contractual personnel and contractual costs every other fiscal year; and (3) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

CDC provides competitive grants to some states to encourage administration of YRBSS. It is possible that MSDE could obtain a federal grant to cover some or all of the costs of implementing the survey in Maryland. Any increase in federal fund revenues would offset the increase in general fund expenditures shown in this fiscal note.

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2004  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2004  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 4, 2004

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