

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 958
Ways and Means

(Delegate King, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Teacher Mentoring Programs. The task force is required to: (1) evaluate the level and adequacy of existing teacher mentoring programs; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of the Maryland Teacher Mentoring Program; (3) evaluate the need for additional teacher mentoring, particularly at schools where teachers are at most risk to leave; and (4) make recommendations as to how the State can promote teacher mentoring programs to train and retain qualified teachers. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staffing for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor; the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee; and the House Ways and Means Committee by December 1, 2004.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004 and sunsets December 31, 2004.

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.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Recent studies indicate that 50% of new teachers nationwide are leaving the teaching profession within the first five years, often citing lack of support and professional development.

State Fiscal Effect: MDSE advises that it's Certification and Accreditation Division does not have adequate personnel to provide the required staffing for the task force and that the department must hire one part-time contractual employee at a cost of \$29,900 to provide staffing for the task force in order to meet the December 1, 2004 reporting deadline. The Department of Legislative Services advises that existing staff within the department could provide the required support for the task force.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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