

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 641
Ways and Means

(Delegate Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Education - Comprehensive Master Plan Updates - Due Dates

This bill moves from August 15 to October 15 the date by which local school systems must submit their annual comprehensive master plan updates. In addition, the date the State Superintendent of Schools must submit an annual report on the alignment of local school budgets and comprehensive master plans is moved from December 1 to December 31.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Moving the date for submission of an annual report would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Moving the date for submission of the annual comprehensive master plan updates would not materially impact local school finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of education must develop and implement a comprehensive master plan that describes the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet State performance standards. Each local board must submit an update of its plan by August 15 of each year.

The State Superintendent of Schools must review how each local board's current year and prior year budgets align with the board's comprehensive master plan and must report on the results of the review by December 1 of each year.

Background: The requirement that each local school system submit a comprehensive master plan and annual updates to the plan was part of the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002. The school finance structure adopted in the Act increased the flexibility of State education aid but required each local school system to detail in its master plan how State, local, and federal funds would be used to improve educational achievement for all student populations.

Local boards of education were required to submit their initial comprehensive master plans by October 1, 2003 and were originally required to submit annual updates to the plans by July 1. At the 2004 legislative session, the due date for the annual updates was moved to August 15 through the Education Fiscal Accountability and Oversight Act. That Act also required the State Superintendent of Schools to review the alignment of each local board's budget and master plan and to report on the alignment by December 1 of each year.

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 1, 2005
n/hlb

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