

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 9 (Senator Britt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

**Civic Literacy**

This joint resolution urges the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to convene a Summit on Civic Literacy with the assistance of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Delegation to the Congressional Conference on Civic Education. The goal of the summit is to determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic engagement and literacy in Maryland. The summit must include a diverse range of participants and must be facilitated by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Maryland Delegation to the Congressional Conference on Civic Education. The summit must provide a report with its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2005.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** In order to comply with the joint resolution, general fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$91,000 in FY 2006 to contract with CIRCLE to hold a two-day Summit on Civic Literacy and write a report on the event. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	91,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$91,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** Local officials asked to participate in the summit could do so without incurring additional costs.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Background:** The First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held in September 2003, and a second conference was held in December 2004. The conferences strive to reaffirm the civic mission of schools. Maryland's delegation to the conference includes two members of the House of Delegates, one staff member from MSDE, and a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education. In January 2004, the Maryland delegation held a State Conference on Civic Education attended by over 40 participants. The group agreed to identify gaps in quality civic education, develop a webpage with links to State and national civic education resources, establish a database of civic education stakeholders in Maryland, and identify needed policy changes.

CIRCLE is based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. It promotes research on the civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25. CIRCLE was founded with a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and is now also funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$91,000 in fiscal 2006. This estimate assumes that CIRCLE would be contracted to plan, facilitate, and fund a two-day summit with 30 participants. The contract would also include the production of a post-summit report. CIRCLE advises that a contract for a one-day summit would cost an estimated \$84,000, and a contract for a three-day summit would cost an estimated \$112,000. Although it is based in the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, CIRCLE is funded entirely from external sources so a contractual arrangement with the State would be the only way to secure its services.

MSDE indicates that it would need an additional half-time contractual position to comply with the joint resolution. However, this estimate is based on the assumption that MSDE would be responsible for writing the final report. If the final report is part of the contract with CIRCLE, MSDE personnel could participate with existing resources.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HJ 10 (Delegate Rudolph, *et al.*) – Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, University System of Maryland, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2005  
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