Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1491   (Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Maryland Youth Advisory Council

This bill establishes a Maryland Youth Advisory Council comprised of 18 high school and college age youths and 3 members of the General Assembly. Members appointed to the council serve staggered two-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The council must: (1) examine issues of importance to youth through at least four annual meetings and two public hearings; (2) inform the Executive and Legislative branches about issues important to youth; and (3) conduct an annual seminar for its members regarding leadership, government, and the legislature. The council must also work with the Maryland State Department of Education regarding the granting of school credit for council service. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) must provide staff support for the council, and the council must report annually on its activities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated $30,500 in FY 2007 to provide staff support for the council. Future year expenditure estimates reflect the cost of an annual summer seminar and annualization, regular salary increases, and inflation in the staffing costs. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
GF Expenditure	30,500	53,000	54,800	56,700	58,700
Net Effect	($30,500)	($53,000)	($54,800)	($56,700)	($58,700)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Although they do not technically receive school credit for the activities, students are required to complete either 75 hours of student service or locally-designed programs of student service in order to receive high school diplomas.

Background: The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 5.6 million people living in Maryland as of July 2004, including 1.9 million people, more than one-third of the total population, who are below the age of 25. The estimated population by age is shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Maryland Population by Age Group
July 2004

Up to Age 5	374,578	6.7%
Ages 6 to 13	692,878	12.5%
Ages 14 to 17	327,352	5.9%
Ages 18 to 24	521,202	9.4%
Age 25 and Older	3,642,048	65.5%
Total Maryland Population	**5,558,058**	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The bill mentions the following issues of importance to youth: education; employment; participation in local and State government; health care access and quality of care; substance abuse; emotional and physical health; the environment; poverty; homelessness; and access to services on a local and statewide basis.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated $30,498 in fiscal 2007, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2006 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a half-time policy analyst at DLS to staff the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and to plan an annual seminar for the council and members of the General Assembly. A half-time salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses are included in the estimate.

	FY 2007	FY 2008
Half-time Salary and Fringe Benefits	$21,606	$29,564
Annual Summer Seminar	0	18,000
Operating Expenses	8,892	5,424
Total State Expenditures	**$30,498**	**$52,988**

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full-year half-time salary with 4.6% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; (2) an estimated $18,000 per year to conduct the required annual seminar; and (3) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 21, 2006
ncs/rhh

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