

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 348

(Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, *et al.*)
(By Request – Departmental – Education)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Youth Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Programs

This departmental bill repeals the requirement that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) seek federal funds for youth suicide prevention programs under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. The bill also transfers the responsibility for submitting an annual report on youth suicide prevention programs from MSDE to the Governor's Office for Children (GOC).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any shift in administrative responsibilities from MSDE to GOC would not materially impact State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: MSDE has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: MSDE must seek federal funds for youth suicide prevention programs under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act and must submit an annual report on the status and effectiveness of youth suicide prevention school programs.

Background: MSDE advises that the Office for Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) administered the funds for youth suicide prevention programs from 1998 until it was terminated last year under the Program Evaluation Act. Funds for the programs are distributed to local school systems through the local management boards. GOC was established by executive order in June 2005 and is now the agency that oversees the local management boards and the funds that are distributed to them.

The federal Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act was signed into law on October 21, 2004 and authorizes federal funds for suicide prevention programs. MSDE advises that federal funding under the Act expired June 1, 2005 and that no alternative federal funds are available for youth suicide prevention.

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 - February 10, 2006
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