

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 519 (Delegate C. Davis)
 Ways and Means

Education - Public Schools - Philippine-American War of 1899-1902

This bill requires each local board of education to establish a program of instruction to teach students about the Philippine-American War in order to instill in students knowledge of the history of the Republic of the Philippines as it intertwines with U.S. history. The program of instruction must include the origin and location of the Bells of Balangiga and the events surrounding the “surprise” attack at Balangiga in the context of the Filipino struggle for independence.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$20,000 in FY 2007 for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to contract for the development and printing of Bells of Balangiga instructional materials. 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	20,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$20,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Local school expenditures for teacher training and professional development would increase minimally to include additional information on the Philippine-American War in local curricula. School revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Within the guidelines and policies established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education is responsible for determining the curriculum for the public schools under its jurisdictions. Public schools must offer social studies courses and instructional programs that develop knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of cultural groups in society.

Background: The preamble to the bill notes that two church bells were taken as a war prize from the Filipino town of Balangiga during the Philippine-American War. The Bells of Balangiga are now part of a monument at the Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. A U.S. House of Representatives Resolution was introduced in June 2005 to urge the President to authorize the transfer of ownership of the bells to the people of the Philippines. The House of Representatives has not acted on the resolution.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that the State's content standards for social studies include discussion of the Philippine-American War. However, instruction about the Bells of Balangiga is not included in the content standards and would require the development of more specific instructional materials. Although the bill only requires local boards of education to implement the curricula, MSDE would be involved in the initial production of model instructional materials. Contracting to develop and print the materials will increase general fund expenditures by an estimated \$20,000 in fiscal 2007. This will be a one-time cost, and the cost assumes that local school systems will be responsible for training teachers in the new instructional program. Existing MSDE personnel could ensure that local school systems properly incorporate the required instruction into local curricula.

Local Expenditures: Local school systems would be responsible for training teachers to use instructional materials developed by MSDE or alternative materials developed locally. Local costs would depend on the ability of the local school systems to incorporate the training into scheduled professional development activities. If separate training sessions must be planned and financed to discuss the new instructional requirements, local costs will be higher.

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 16, 2006
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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510