

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1372
Ways and Means

(Delegate Gaines, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Student Health - Inhalant Abuse - Awareness, Training, and Distribution of
Materials (Mackenzie's Law)**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), to provide awareness and training on inhalant abuse for directors of student services in local school systems. DHMH must provide MSDE with resource information on inhalant abuse to be distributed to local school supervisors of health, counseling, and psychology and materials for distribution that describe local, State, and national resources to which students, parents, counselors, and school personnel can refer for information on inhalant abuse.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$25,000 annually beginning in FY 2008 to print and disseminate educational literature on inhalant abuse. For a more intensive public awareness campaign, costs could be significantly higher. DHMH could provide information without incurring additional expenses. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Net Effect	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)

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

Local Effect: Local directors of student services could participate in inhalant abuse training without impacting local school system budgets.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: With the assistance of the local health department, each local board of education must provide adequate school health facilities and instruction in health education.

Background: Many ordinary household products – such as glues, nail polish remover, marking pens, paint thinner, spray paint, lighter fluid, gasoline, propane gas, household cleaners, and cooking sprays – can be deliberately sniffed or inhaled to achieve a “high.” Although the National Institute of Drug Abuse reports that the use of inhalants seems to have declined over the last decade, at its peak, approximately one in five teenagers reported having sniffed inhalants to get high. Common symptoms of inhalant use include slurred or disoriented speech, red or runny eyes and nose, and nausea. More serious abuse of inhalants can cause brain damage, loss of muscle control, organ damage, or even death.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that data from the Maryland Adolescent Survey, which was administered most recently in 2004, suggest that there has been a significant decline in inhalant abuse among Maryland students over the last 10 years. MSDE also reports that, over the last three years, there have been between 19 and 26 suspensions per year due to inhalants.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, athealth.com, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Department of Legislative Services

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