

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 112

(Senator Britt, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Prince George's County - Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and
Technical Education High School Academies

This bill establishes a Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and Technical Education High School Academies in Prince George's County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates July 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund expenditures in FY 2008 to reimburse task force members for expenses.

Local Effect: None. The Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) can staff the task force using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force is required to:

- examine the needs of students in PGCPS who are not completing high school to determine if they are being prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;
- examine the needs of students in PGCPS who are not going on to postsecondary education to determine if they are being prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;

- explore whether the high school curriculum is contributing to the decisions of some students not to complete high school;
- examine the workforce needs of the community, focusing especially on present and future opportunities for workers who are not college educated;
- examine whether the current PGCPS high school curriculum meets the needs of students who are not going on to postsecondary education;
- explore research-based alternatives to the current PGCPS high school curriculum that might better prepare students who are not going on to postsecondary education;
- identify strategies and approaches that might better address the needs of students not going on to postsecondary education, including the feasibility of curriculum changes and the development of vocational and technical high school academies and other alternative instructional models;
- identify legal, financial, regulatory, and organizational obstacles to the implementation of curriculum and instructional changes in PGCPS high schools, including the use of vocational and technical academies; and
- explore the willingness of stakeholders in Prince George's County to implement changes to curriculum and instruction in the county's public high schools.

Task force members serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement of expenses, as provided in the State budget.

By July 1, 2008, the task force will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, Prince George's County Executive, Prince George's County Council, Prince George's County Board of Education, and the General Assembly.

Background: In 2006, 52.4% of graduating seniors from PGCPS high schools enrolled in four-year colleges, and an additional 29.5% enrolled in two-year colleges, for a combined college enrollment rate of 81.9%. This is virtually identical to the 82.1% of graduating seniors statewide who enrolled in college as either full- or part-time students.

In 2006, the annual dropout rate among PGCPS high school students was 4.1%, the seventh highest rate in the State and only slightly above the statewide dropout rate of 3.7%. However, only 64.6% of PGCPS ninth-graders in 2002 graduated from high school four years later, well below the 75.1% rate statewide.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 629 (Prince George's County Delegation) – Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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