

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1146
Ways and Means

(Delegate Stifler, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Implementing a BRAC TRAC in Middle and High Schools

This bill establishes a task force to study the feasibility of implementing a Base Realignment and Closure, Taking Responsibility, Action, and Care (BRAC TRAC) for middle and high school students that would emphasize math and science classes in order to prepare students for BRAC-related jobs. The task force must study ways to fund the program besides State funds and identify potential community partnerships that may be able to provide funding or educational opportunities for participating students. The Maryland State Department of Education will provide staff for the task force. A final report is due December 31, 2007.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates June 30, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional costs associated with the task force are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: In 1990, Congress created a process known as BRAC to address an excess of military facilities. BRAC allows for the appointment of an independent commission that evaluates the military's needs and offers recommendations. The BRAC Commission

finished its work and submitted its recommendations to the President on September 8, 2005. The recommendations were subsequently submitted to the U.S. Congress and took effect November 9, 2005.

As a result of BRAC, Maryland will gain approximately 16,000 Department of Defense military and civilian jobs, phased in from 2005 to 2011. The bulk of the gains are at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade, and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and are expected to be highly-skilled, well-paid jobs.

In a December 2006 report, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) advised that it anticipates 28,176 new households as a result of BRAC, with 25,312 located in eight jurisdictions that MDP selected for detailed study. Of the projected 25,312 new households, the majority will be concentrated in Harford (26%), Anne Arundel (18%), and Baltimore counties (14%), followed by Baltimore City (10%) and Montgomery (9%), Cecil and Prince George's (8% each), and Howard (7%) counties. Approximately 53% of the new households are projected to be high-income (over \$75,000 annually) and an additional 28% are projected to be middle-income (\$30,001 to \$75,000 annually).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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