

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1272
Appropriations

(Delegate Bates, *et al.*)

Higher Education - Disclosure of Education Records - Notice to Students and
Parents

This bill requires public institutions of higher education to send a summary of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to a student who receives a letter of admission and to the mailing address of the parent or guardian of an admitted student. The summary must include a description of the types of information that may be disclosed to the parent or guardian of a student and the circumstances when the information may be disclosed. The Maryland Higher Education Commission must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Higher education expenditures would increase minimally beginning in FY 2009 to send FERPA summaries to the parents or guardians of students who have been admitted to State institutions of higher education. The Maryland Higher Education Commission could adopt the required regulations with existing personnel and resources.

Local Effect: Community college expenditures would increase minimally beginning in FY 2009 to send FERPA summaries to the parents or guardians of students who have been admitted to the colleges.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: FERPA protects the privacy of student educational records. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or guardian of a student to release information from the student's educational records. When a student turns 18, FERPA rights transfer to the student. Schools – including primary, secondary, and postsecondary schools – must notify parents and eligible students annually about FERPA rights, but the federal law does not specify how the notification must be executed.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Morgan State University, University System of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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