

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 133
Appropriations

(Delegate Bohanan)

Budget and Taxation

Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education -
Membership and Extension of Sunset

This emergency bill extends the termination date of the Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education from May 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009 and requires a final report from the commission by December 1, 2008. The original date for submission of a final report, December 31, 2007, is changed to require an interim report by that date instead. The bill also adds the Lieutenant Governor to the commission's membership.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Budget and Management, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and Department of Legislative Services could continue to provide staff support for the commission with existing personnel and resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education was scheduled to release its final report by December 31, 2007 and is scheduled to terminate on May 1, 2008.

Background: The Tuition Affordability Act of 2006 (Chapters 57 and 58) established the Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education and charged the commission with:

- developing an effective framework for higher education funding;
- establishing a stable funding mechanism that ensures accessibility and affordability at public institutions of higher education while maintaining a high level of quality at the institutions; and
- reviewing the appropriate level of funding for the State's Historically Black Institutions to ensure that they are comparable and competitive with Maryland's other public institutions of higher education.

The commission held 10 meetings in 2007, but in order to fully accomplish its charge the commission requested a one-year extension. The Presiding Officers agreed to the extension with the understanding that an interim report would be submitted in 2007. That report, which summarizes the commission's work to date, was released December 31, 2007.

Although not part of the commission's formal membership, the Lieutenant Governor attended commission meetings throughout 2007.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2008
ncs/rhh

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