

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 457

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Task Force on Educational Issues Affecting Military Children

This bill establishes a Task Force on Educational Issues Affecting Military Children to identify and examine educational issues that affect the children of military families and ongoing efforts in Maryland school systems to address these issues. The task force must make recommendations for improving the transition of military children into Maryland schools and study the feasibility of joining the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. The Maryland State Department of Education will provide staff support for the task force, and a report is due by December 1, 2008.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008 and terminates May 31, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Travel expense reimbursements for task force members could be supported with existing budgeted resources. MSDE could provide staff support for the task force with existing personnel.

Local Effect: Local officials appointed to the task force could serve without affecting local budgets.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: An August 2006 press release from the Council of State Governments stated that CSG was in the process of working with the U.S. Department of Defense to

develop an interstate agreement to address educational transitions for military children. The press release notes that “the average military student changes schools more than twice during high school, and most military children will be in six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to grade 12.” The transfers frequently create bureaucratic problems that can disadvantage the academic performance of military children. The Interstate Compact on Educational Issues Affecting Military Children that was developed attempts to minimize the barriers faced by these students. CSG’s National Center for Interstate Compacts reports that, by the end of March, 18 states had introduced legislation to establish the compact.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 784 (Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*) – Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2008
mll/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 2008
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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510