

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 140 (Senators Muse and Klausmeier)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State -  
Membership, Staffing, and Extension

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This bill increases the membership of the Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State and provides for additional staffing of the task force. The bill further extends the task force's reporting date to December 1, 2009, and its termination date to June 30, 2010.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The requirement to share staffing responsibilities for the task force is absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and the Department of Legislative Services.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not affect local finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapters 186 and 187 of 2008 created the Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State. The task force was established to (1) study the current ability of high school students to understand basic financial concepts; (2) evaluate the current provision of financial literacy education in Maryland's public schools; (3) assess the utility of financial literacy education as part of primary and secondary education; (4) study the current ability of consumers older than age 21 who have

achieved a high school diploma to understand basic financial concepts; and (5) study the problems created for the average consumer by a lack of financial literacy or knowledge, including specified items.

**Background:** The task force met three times in 2008:

- November 5, 2008, for an organizational meeting;
- November 20, 2008, for briefings on financial literacy education at the national, State, and local levels as well as the role of public/private partnerships between schools and various financial institutions (credit unions and banks), nonprofit organizations, and coalitions to improve financial literacy; and
- December 11, 2008, to review the recommendations of task force's Education Workgroup and to make recommendations relating to financial literacy education in primary and secondary schools. These recommendations were presented to the State Board of Education at a January 27, 2009 board meeting.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 120 (Delegates Stein and Krebs) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2009  
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