

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 3 (Delegate Kelly, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Secondary Schools - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instruction

This joint resolution urges each local board of education to make available American Red Cross Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction, the American Heart Association's Heart Saver CPR curriculum, or an equivalent program to high school students.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill is directed at local school systems.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures increase if local school systems choose to offer CPR instruction to high school students.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Local school systems must provide instruction in health education; however, CPR instruction is not required for high school students.

Background: The preamble notes that each year approximately 1.2 million Americans suffer acute myocardial infarctions, and effective bystander CPR provided immediately after the commencement of cardiac arrest can double a victim's chance of survival. *WebMD* reports that one study showed that only 14.3% of cardiac arrest victims in the study received bystander CPR before going to the hospital, and that bystander CPR is being overlooked as a life-saving method.

Local Expenditures: The bill does not require local school systems to offer CPR instruction; however if they choose to offer it, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that to provide CPR training to students, the local school systems will need to hire external consultants to teach CPR or train staff members in CPR instruction.

According to MSDE, hiring an external consultant certified by the American Red Cross will cost approximately \$50 per student. Alternatively, training a staff member to be certified by the American Red Cross to teach CPR will cost approximately \$350 per staff member. The American Red Cross instructor training course is 32 hours spread over six days. The American Heart Association Heartsaver instructor course requires eight hours of instruction and is offered through independent businesses. The cost of this instructor course is currently unknown. Staff trained in CPR instruction may also need to take periodic refresher courses.

MSDE advises the following materials will be needed to offer the American Red Cross CPR course:

- one adult Red Cross manikin at \$200 or one infant Red Cross manikin at \$100;
- student workbooks for each student;
- instructor materials; and
- cleaning materials for manikins.

MSDE advises the following materials will be needed to offer the American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR for Schools course:

- Heartsaver CPR in Schools student workbook at \$8.50 each;
- Heartsaver and Family & Friends® instructor manuals at \$45 each;
- Heartsaver manikins at \$50 to \$300 per manikin;
- cleaning materials for manikins.

The preamble recommends that local boards pursue partnerships with local chapters of the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association, local career and volunteer fire and emergency medical services and ambulance companies, local hospitals and health systems, and medical associations to provide CPR instruction to high school students at a cost that accommodates local education budgets. It is unknown if local school systems will be able to form these cooperative partnerships or if these partnerships will reduce the cost of providing CPR instruction.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, *WebMD*, Department of Legislative Services

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