

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 485

(Delegate Olszewski)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Youth Advisory Council - Youth Members

This bill expands the term of a youth member of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council from nine months to one year. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must allow youth council members up to four lawful absences from school per year for council business. The terms of youth members in office on June 1, 2009, expire on August 30, 2009.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional Maryland Youth Advisory Council travel expenses can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Youth members of the council serve nine-month terms from September 1 through June 1.

A local superintendent of schools, school principal, or an individual authorized by the local superintendent or principal may excuse a student from school for a lawful absence. According to Code of Maryland Regulations provisions, work approved or sponsored by the school, the local school system, the local superintendent, the school principal, or their designee is a lawful excuse for absence.

Background: Chapter 559 of 2008 established the Maryland Youth Advisory Council to inform the Governor and the General Assembly of issues concerning youth. The council is charged with recommending one legislative proposal each year for possible introduction, conducting one or two public hearings each year on issues of importance to youth, and conducting a public awareness campaign. MSDE may elect to allow student members to earn school credit for their service on the council. By June 1 of each year, the council must report on its activities to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Extending youth members' terms to one year allows the council to meet during the summer months. It also extends the youth co-chair's term to one year. MSDE does not need to change regulations or add an absence code to the Maryland Student Records System to accommodate a high school student who is absent due to the business of the council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 463 (Senator Lenett) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2009
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