

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 845 (Delegate Carter, *et al.*)
Ways and Means and Judiciary

Rules

Education - Tween/Teen Dating Violence

This bill requires the State Board of Education to encourage local boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on dating violence into their health education curriculum.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Education can encourage local boards of education to incorporate age appropriate lessons on dating violence into their health education curriculum with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures may increase minimally for local school systems that choose to incorporate lessons on dating violence into their health education courses.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction.

Background: According to the *New York Times*, limited public health research estimates about 10% of adolescent relationships are abusive. An online survey by Liz Claiborne Inc. reports that only 51% of respondents claimed to know the warning signs of a bad or

hurtful relationship, and one in five 13 to 14 year olds in a relationship say they know friends and peers who have been struck in anger by a boyfriend or girlfriend. A survey by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene showed that dating violence in the city has risen by more than 40% since 1999.

Some other states have begun to take action against tweens and teenagers dating violence. In 2006, Tennessee passed a law urging its department of education to develop curriculum for grades 7 through 12 to raise student awareness of teen dating and sexual violence. Texas law requires each school district to adopt and implement a dating violence policy. New York has recently expanded its domestic violence law to include teenagers in dating relationships.

The Maryland State Department of Education advises that the health education voluntary State curriculum includes a framework that addresses healthy relationships and domestic violence. The Department of Human Resources advises that rape crisis centers provide prevention education and awareness programs in their local communities, including schools. Dating violence is addressed under these circumstances, not only with students from elementary to high school, but also with parents, teachers, and other professionals.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1049 (Senator Muse) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Governor's Office, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, National Center for Victims of Crime, Liz Claiborne Inc., Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2009
mcp/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 13, 2009

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