

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1312  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Walker, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety. Bowie State University (BSU) must provide staff support for the task force. A final report with findings and recommendations is due by July 1, 2011.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010, and terminates June 30, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Higher education expenditures may increase minimally to reimburse task force members for expenses. BSU can staff the task force using existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must make findings and recommendations concerning the establishment of a Maryland Center for School Safety, including the following issues:

- establishing a clearinghouse for information and materials concerning school safety, including preparing and disseminating information regarding best practices;
- developing a school safety training program;
- establishing, maintaining, and analyzing a statewide data collection system regarding specified indicators of school safety;

- developing security criteria that local school systems may consider in the design of new school construction;
- developing model interagency agreements to address discipline and safety issues; and
- developing a model safety and security audit procedure.

Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Background:** Several states have centers dedicated to school safety that serve as central locations for school safety information and provide schools with research, training, and technical assistance to reduce youth violence and promote safety. The centers in Kentucky and Texas are located at state institutions of higher education and serve as central locations for the collection and analysis of school safety data.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Juvenile Services; University System of Maryland; Department of State Police; Department of Human Resources; Public School Construction Program; Carroll, Cecil, Harford, and St. Mary's counties; Kentucky Center for School Safety; Texas School Safety Center; Washington State Safety Center; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2010  
mpc/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 7, 2010

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