

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

**Revised**

Senate Bill 74

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Education)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

---

**Education - Comprehensive Master Plans**

---

This departmental bill requires local boards of education to continue submitting annual updates to their master plans in October 2010 and October 2011 and delays the requirement that local boards of education submit new five-year comprehensive master plans from October 15, 2010, until October 15, 2012. Local boards may submit a preexisting management plan in lieu of a comprehensive master plan or update. The State Superintendent of Schools must approve the management plan in lieu of a comprehensive master plan or update if the preexisting plan meets the requirements for the comprehensive master plan. Beginning in 2013, rather than 2011, each annual master plan update must cover a five-year period.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not substantively change the State's annual review of school system master plans and master plan updates.

**Local Effect:** Delaying deadlines for submission of comprehensive master plans and updates is not expected to materially impact local school budgets.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

---

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** In addition to extending the date by which new five-year plans are required, the bill reduces from 60 to 30 the number of days prior to the State submission deadline by which comprehensive master plans and updates must be submitted to local officials.

**Current Law:** Each local board of education must develop and implement a comprehensive master plan that describes the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet State and local performance standards in each segment of the student population. Local boards of education are required to submit annual updates to their master plans through 2009. By October 15, 2010, each local board must submit a new five-year comprehensive master plan to MSDE. Beginning in 2011, each local board must submit an annual update that covers a five-year period. At least 60 days before submitting a plan or update to MSDE, a local board must provide a copy of the plan or update to specified local officials.

**Background:** The development of a comprehensive master plan by each local school system was one of the major accountability components of the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002. The Act required significant enhancements to State funding for public elementary and secondary education and gave local school systems broad discretion to use the added revenues for programs, initiatives, and enhancements that would best serve local student populations. The master plans were designed to ensure that the large infusion of funds would be used on focused sets of identified strategies.

Local school systems were initially required to develop five-year plans and were required to update the plans annually during implementation of the Bridge to Excellence Act. Chapter 652 of 2007 then added two additional years of mandatory plan updates (fall 2008 and 2009). In addition, the legislation required school systems to develop new five-year master plans by fall 2010 and required annual updates to those plans that would likewise cover five years.

To allow the legislature to review the final report from the Bridge to Excellence evaluators before proceeding with the mandates for 2010 and beyond, Chapter 652 included a provision that required the General Assembly to revisit these decisions in 2009 to determine:

- whether the comprehensive master plan requirement for local school systems could be differentiated to reflect differing levels of progress in improving student achievement; and

- if local school systems could use preexisting comprehensive plans to satisfy the master plan requirement.

A provision that allowed local boards of education to submit preexisting management plans expired on July 1, 2009. The General Assembly let the expiration of the provision take effect but gave itself additional time before the fall 2010 submission to continue studying the issue. With no additional action this session, all school systems will be required to submit new five-year comprehensive master plans by October 15, 2010.

A workgroup established by MSDE and including representatives from local school systems has developed the changes that would be implemented by the bill. The delay is proposed out of concern that the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the national standards movement may change federal education requirements. Differentiating the master plan process is proposed as a way to reduce the administrative burden of developing all new master plans and to reward those systems that have been successful under existing plans. Adjusting the deadline for submission of plans and updates to local officials is proposed to ensure that all test information is available before the plans and updates are submitted.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 19, 2010  
ncs/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 18, 2010

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510



## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Education – Comprehensive Master Plans

BILL NUMBER: SB 74

PREPARED BY: Maryland State Department of Education

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.