

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 528 (Senators Currie and Raskin)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Development of Curriculum Content for Chess Instruction

This bill authorizes the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long course in chess instruction. If the State board develops the curriculum content, a local board may implement the chess instruction in elementary, middle, or high schools.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Authorizing the State board to develop curriculum content for a semester-long course in chess instruction does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: Authorizing a local board to implement chess instruction does not affect local finances; however, if a local school system chooses to implement a chess course expenditures may increase.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Subject to the applicable laws and policies of the State board, each local board of education, on the written recommendation of the local superintendent, must establish curriculum guides and courses for the schools under its jurisdiction.

Teachers, specialists, and administrators in Maryland public schools and in approved schools operated by State agencies must hold a valid certificate appropriate to the field of employment. Certain nonpublic school personnel employed in special education facilities must also hold a valid certificate appropriate to the field of employment. The

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education establish standards for certification; there is no specific certification for chess instruction.

Background: MSDE reports that it does not currently have an office in the Division of Instruction with responsibility for this type of curriculum nor the capacity to develop this type of curriculum; however, local school systems may currently offer instruction in chess if they choose and online curriculum in chess instruction is available free of charge.

MSDE administered the Chess in Maryland Schools grant program, which distributed approximately \$200,000 in grants annually for fiscal 2007 through 2009. Chess programs were able to apply for up to \$10,000 a year to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of their programs including purchasing curriculum and supplies, costs associated with training staff and volunteers, and costs associated with tournaments and a trip to enhance students' chess experience. Montgomery County reports that program was successful in increasing students' knowledge of chess and leveraging community support for chess programs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2010
mlm/mwc

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