

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 772 (Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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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, 2012.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011, and terminates June 30, 2013.

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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:** Local school system employees appointed to the task force can participate without affecting local budgets.

**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;

- collaborating with the State Department of Education to establish, maintain, and analyze 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:** HB 1312 of 2010 was similar as amended and passed by the House. HB 1312 passed the Senate with amendments, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** HB 79 (Delegate Walker) - Ways and Means.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2011  
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