

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1156  
Appropriations

(Delegates Rudolph and James)

Budget and Taxation

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**Task Force to Study the Creation of a Regional Higher Education Center in  
Northeastern Maryland**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Creation of a Regional Higher Education Center in Northeastern Maryland that will examine the need for higher education in Northeastern Maryland and the role of various segments of higher education in meeting the needs of the region. The task force must meet at least monthly, and a report with findings and recommendations is due by December 1, 2011. The Office of the Governor must provide staff for the task force.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011, and terminates June 30, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Office of the Governor can staff the task force with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local government officials appointed to the council can participate without affecting local budgets.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

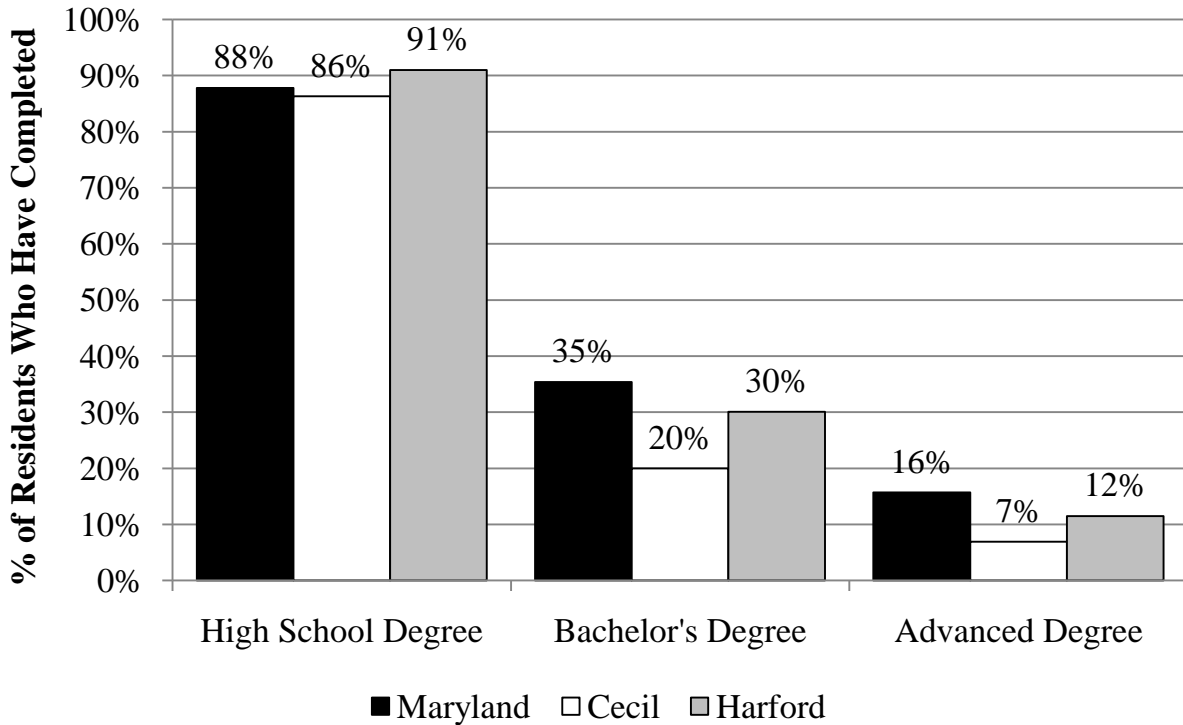
**Background:** In Cecil and Harford counties, there are two community colleges (one in each county) and a regional higher education center, the Higher Education and Conference Center at HEAT (Higher Education and Applied Technology).

- Cecil Community College: Founded in 1968, Cecil Community College enrolled more than 1,400 full-time equivalent (FTE) students (716 credit and 706 noncredit) in 2009 according to its website. As 1 of the State's 15 locally operated community colleges, the college receives funding from Cecil County and the State in addition to the tuition revenues that students pay.
- Harford Community College: Founded in 1957, Harford Community College is another locally operated community college. The college's website reports that it enrolled almost 4,500 FTE students in fiscal 2010.
- Higher Education and Conference Center at HEAT: The regional higher education center was formed by Harford Community College, Harford County, and the Maryland Transportation Authority, which owns the land on which the facility is located. Harford Community College manages operations, and the center has partnered with several four-year institutions, including the University of Maryland, College Park; Johns Hopkins University; Towson University; and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Partnering institutions set tuition levels and requirements for enrollment in their programs, provide faculty, and confer degrees.

The educational attainment of residents of Cecil and Harford counties is compared with the educational attainment of all Maryland residents in **Exhibit 1**. The exhibit shows that, relative to the statewide figures, similar percentages of county residents have completed high school but lower percentages hold college degrees, particularly in Cecil County.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Educational Attainment of Residents Age 25 and Older**  
**2007-2009**



Source: *Demographic, Socioeconomic, Housing and Journey to Work Data for Maryland's Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas & Jurisdictions, 2007 – 2009*; Maryland Department of Planning

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Insurance Administration, Maryland Independent College and University Association, University System of Maryland, Harford County, Office of the Governor, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2011  
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