

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 288 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Higher
Education Commission)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Higher Education - Cultural Diversity Programs - Reporting Requirements

This departmental bill alters the dates by which public institutions of higher education, independent institutions of higher education that receive State funding under the Sellinger formula, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must submit annual reports on the promotion and enhancement of cultural diversity at institutions of higher education.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Changing the reporting date for the annual report on the promotion and enhancement of cultural diversity does not affect finances at MHEC or public institutions of higher education.

Local Effect: Changing the reporting date for the annual report on the promotion and enhancement of cultural diversity does not affect community college finances.

Small Business Effect: MHEC has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Each public institution must submit its cultural diversity plan to its governing board by July 1 of each year instead of May 1 under current law,

and the governing boards must submit progress reports regarding the implementation of the plans to MHEC by September 1 instead of August 1 each year.

Likewise, July 1 instead of May 1 annually, each independent institution of higher education that receives State funding under the Sellinger formula must submit its report to the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA). MICUA must submit annual reports on the status of programs at the independent institutions to MHEC by September 1, instead of August 1 under current law.

By December 1 of each year instead of October 1 under current law, MHEC must report on the extent to which the public institutions in the State are in compliance with the goals of the State plan.

The plan developed by each public institution of higher education must enhance cultural diversity programming and sensitivity to cultural diversity through instruction and training at the institution and must include implementation strategies and timetables for meeting goals in the plans. MICUA's annual report on the status of programs at the independent institutions must include an analysis of the best practices used at independent institutions.

Background: Chapters 579 and 580 of 2008 required public institutions of higher education in Maryland to develop and implement plans for programs of cultural diversity and required independent institutions of higher education that receive State funding under the Sellinger formula to report on the programs at the institutions that promote and enhance cultural diversity.

MHEC advises that the current reporting timeline only allows institutions to collect and analyze data on part of the academic year, limiting the usefulness of the report. Extending the deadlines will allow each campus to provide a more complete report to MHEC and the General Assembly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Morgan State University, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2011
mc/rhh

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Higher Education – Cultural Diversity Programs – Reporting Requirements

BILL NUMBER: SB 288

PREPARED BY: Maryland Higher Education Commission

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.