

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 680
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Task Force to Explore Incorporating the Subject of Agriculture in Existing Curricular Areas

This bill requires the State Board of Education and the University of Maryland Extension, after consultation with local boards of education, specified local agriculture groups, and other organizations that promote education about agriculture, to create a task force by December 31, 2014, to explore options for incorporating the subject of agriculture, including sustainable agriculture and other agriculture issues, in all existing curricular areas.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012, and terminates May 31, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$16,500 in FY 2015, which reflects the cost of hiring one part-time contractual employee for six months at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to staff the task force. No effect on revenues.

| (in dollars) | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GF Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 16,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Effect | \$0 | \$0 | (\$16,500) | \$0 | \$0 |

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction.

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations, each local school system must provide in public schools a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary environmental education program infused within current curricular offerings and aligned with the Maryland Environmental Literacy Curriculum. As part of that curriculum, a student must make decisions that demonstrate understanding of natural communities and the ecological, economic, political, and social system of human communities and must examine how their personal and collective actions affect the sustainability of these interrelated systems.

State Expenditures: MSDE reports that due to an increased workload, additional assignments cannot be absorbed with existing resources. Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$16,479 in fiscal 2015, which accounts for the task force being established by December 31, 2014. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time contractual employee for six months to staff the task force. It includes a part-time salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses

| | <u>FY 2015</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salary and Fringe Benefits | \$14,118 |
| Operating Expenses | 118 |
| Start-up Costs | 2,243 |
| Total State Expenditures | \$16,479 |

Fiscal 2015 expenditures reflect the termination of the contractual employee on May 31, 2015.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland State Department of Education; University System of Maryland; U.S. Department of

Agriculture; Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education; Department of
Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2012
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