

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

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

House Bill 1401  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Oaks, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**State Department of Education - Oral Health Education**

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This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to support and facilitate oral health education, including oral disease prevention and dental health promotion, in every jurisdiction and develop a process to monitor implementation of oral health education. By December 1, 2015, and every five years thereafter, MSDE must submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a summary of the information reported by MSDE to the State Superintendent of Schools during the certification of the health education State curriculum. The State Board of Education must encourage the local boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on oral disease prevention and dental health promotion into the local board's health education curriculum.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MSDE can develop the required reporting procedures, collect the local school system reports, and report to the Governor and the General Assembly using existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can incorporate oral health education into their existing health education curriculum using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** With the assistance of the local health department, each local board of education must provide adequate school health services; instruction in health education, including the importance of physical activity, in maintaining good health; and a healthful school environment. MSDE and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must jointly develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs and offer assistance to the local boards of education and local health departments in their implementation.

**Background:** According to the U.S. Office of the Surgeon General, tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease and over 50% of children aged five to nine years old have at least one cavity or filling.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 867 (Senator Conway, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, U.S Office of the Surgeon General, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2012  
mlm/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2012  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 11, 2012

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510