

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

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

Senate Bill 571

(Senator Montgomery, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Task Force to Study the Establishment of a Deaf Culture Digital Library**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Establishment of a Deaf Culture Library. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff for the task force. A final report with findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2012.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012, and terminates June 30, 2013.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MSDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force is charged with:

- studying the establishment of a Deaf Culture Digital Library including potential funding sources for the library through a public-private partnership or the establishment of a friends of the organization; and
- making recommendations regarding the coordination of a Deaf Culture Digital Library to educate individuals about deaf cultures in the United States and other countries, including reference material and links to other resources.

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.

**Current Law/Background:** The Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) within MSDE operates the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The fiscal 2013 State budget includes \$3.0 million for DLDS, including \$550,800 in general funds.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 390 (Delegates Luedtke and Reznik) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland School for the Deaf, Deaf Culture Online, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2012  
mlm/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2012

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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