

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 342
Ways and Means

(Delegate Smigiel, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Regional School of the Arts for Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's
Counties - Feasibility Study

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), jointly with the local boards of education of Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties, to study the feasibility of establishing a centrally located regional school of the arts in one of those counties. By December 31, 2012, the State Superintendent of Schools must submit a report on MSDE's findings and recommendations.

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. Thus, the requirement to develop a feasibility study within a year may not be absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of MSDE without a redirection of resources from other projects. It is assumed that any expense reimbursements can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Board of education staff from Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties can participate in conducting the feasibility study without materially affecting local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties are in the Northeast corner of the State. During the 2010-2011 school year, 50 of the State's 1,452 public schools were located in those counties. In addition, there are approximately 25,000 kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in the three counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Cecil County, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2012
ncs/mwc

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