

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 7 (Senator Jones-Rodwell)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**International Education and Foreign Exchange Programs - Support**

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This joint resolution urges the State Board of Education to encourage students, teachers, administrators, and educational policymakers to participate in international education and foreign exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual understanding and respect for citizens of other countries. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is urged to (1) identify international opportunities for learning and educational exchange programs and appropriate curriculum materials; and (2) provide information to local boards of education that will increase the awareness of Maryland educators and students of other cultures, languages, economies, and systems of government.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Urging the State Board of Education to encourage participation in international education and foreign exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness does not directly affect State operations or finances; however, expenditures may increase if MSDE decides to identify opportunities and appropriate curriculum materials.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** The preamble notes that, knowledge of other cultures, economies, and systems of government is becoming an increasingly necessary skill for future leaders and

workers. International education and foreign exchange programs offer educators and students the opportunity to learn about foreign nations, cultures, and customs. These programs also offer educators and students the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and professional relationships as well as developing new methods of learning and teaching.

The U.S. Department of Education's International and Foreign Language Education Office is responsible for encouraging and promoting the study of foreign languages and cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels in the United States. Cultural exchange programs at the elementary and secondary levels are a pipeline for the programs including the Fulbright-Hays programs at the postsecondary level.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 29, 2012  
mlm/mwc

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