

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 9

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Education - Children and Youth - Reporting of Information Concerning Student  
Health, Well-Being, and Growth

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This bill requires the State Board of Education to encourage the local boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on diabetes and its treatment and prevention into the jurisdiction's health education curriculum.

By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must report to the Governor and the General Assembly a summary of the information reported to the State Superintendent of Schools during the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) certification process for the financial literacy curriculum. By December 1, 2015, and every five years thereafter, MSDE must report to the Governor and the General Assembly a summary of the information reported to the State Superintendent of Schools during the COMAR certification process for the health education instruction and lessons on dating violence and diabetes.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MSDE can submit the required reports using existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. Local boards of education are currently required to report to the State Superintendent of Schools regarding the financial literacy curriculum, health education instruction, and lessons on dating violence during the COMAR certification process.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## 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. A local board of education, with the assistance of the local health department, must provide instruction in health education including the importance of physical activity in maintaining good health. The State Board of Education must also encourage local boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on dating violence into the health education curriculum. Local boards of education are not specifically required to provide instruction on diabetes as part of their health instruction.

According to COMAR, by September 2015 and every five years after that, each local superintendent of schools must certify to the State Superintendent of Schools that the instructional programming within grades prekindergarten through 12 meets, at a minimum, the requirements of the comprehensive health education instructional programs. Each local superintendent had to certify by September 1, 2011 and every five years thereafter, that the financial literacy program in its jurisdiction meets, at a minimum, the financial literacy requirements in COMAR.

### **Background:**

#### *Financial Literacy*

Pursuant to Chapter 186 of 2008, the Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State was created to study the ability of high school students to understand basic financial concepts; assess the utility of financial literacy education as part of primary and secondary education; study the ability of consumers older than age 21 who have achieved a high school diploma to understand basic financial concepts; study the problems created for the average consumer by a lack of financial literacy or knowledge; and make recommendations regarding how to address these problems.

In response to task force recommendations, MSDE formed a Financial Literacy Education Design Team to develop financial literacy education content standards – statements about what students should know and be able to do – and convened a Financial Literacy Advisory Council to oversee the work of the design team and help leverage resources. Membership on both the design team and the advisory council included members of the task force; educators; and representatives of associations, nonprofit organizations, and financial institutions (including banks and credit unions).

The content standards that were developed as a result of these efforts serve as the framework for the State board regulations on financial literacy.

### *Diabetes*

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. Diagnosis most often occurs in childhood and adolescence, although it can appear at any age. People with diabetes take insulin injections or infuse insulin through a pump to manage blood sugar levels. However, insulin is not a cure. Type 1 diabetes can still lead to kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, amputations, heart attack, and stroke.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes accounting for 90% to 95% of people with diabetes. Unlike people with type 1 diabetes, people with type 2 diabetes produce insulin; however, either their pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the body cannot use the insulin adequately. Anyone can get type 2 diabetes; however, those at the highest risk for the disease include those who are obese or overweight, women who have had gestational diabetes, people with family members who have type 2 diabetes, people who smoke, people with inactive lifestyles, and people with certain dietary patterns.

MSDE reports that the State curriculum in health education currently includes objectives that address risk factors for chronic disease such as diabetes and objectives related to how nutrition is related to chronic disease.

### *Dating Violence*

MSDE advises that the health education State curriculum includes a framework that addresses healthy relationships and domestic violence. The Department of Human Resources advises that rape crisis centers provide prevention education and awareness programs in their local communities, including schools. Dating violence is addressed under these circumstances, not only with students from elementary to high school, but also with parents, teachers, and other professionals.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill, HB 789 of 2010, passed the House and Senate with amendments, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Harford, Montgomery, and Talbot counties; Baltimore City; American Diabetes Association; WebMD; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2012  
ncs/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2012  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 15, 2012

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