

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 461

(Chair, Ways and Means Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Education)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Early Childhood Advisory Council

This departmental bill codifies the State Early Childhood Advisory Council. The purposes of the council are to (1) coordinate efforts among early childhood care and education programs; (2) conduct needs assessments concerning early childhood education and development programs; and (3) develop a statewide strategic report regarding early childhood education and care. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff for the council. By December 1, 2015, the council must submit a statewide strategic report on the recommendations and findings of the council, including the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs, the coordination of funding, and the improvements to State early learning standards. After submission of the report, the council must continue to meet periodically to review implementation of the report's recommendations and any changes in State and local needs after submission of the report.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Under the existing executive order, members of the council are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, and MSDE has been staffing the council; therefore, reimbursement of expenses, including for the new members, and staffing of the council can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: MSDE has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes the membership of the council, which has been revised from the current list of members. Specifically, the bill adds a member of the House of Delegates, a member of the Senate of Maryland, and several other members. It also makes other changes to reflect different areas of expertise and changes to organizations.

The council is charged with conducting periodic statewide needs assessments concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including the availability of high-quality prekindergarten services for low-income children in the State, health-related barriers to school readiness and early childhood educational success, and the availability of high-quality early childhood education and development programs that serve children with and without disabilities together. The council must also develop specified recommendations related to early childhood education and care, and assess the capacity and effectiveness of two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators.

The council must meet at least three times per year. The meetings must be open to the general public; held in a place accessible to the general public; and announced in advance. Minutes must be kept of all council meetings. The council may adopt procedures and bylaws as necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

Members of the council may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations.

Current Law/ Background: The State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC Council) was established in accordance with the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. In July 2008, by issuance of Executive Order 01.01.2008.09, the Early Care and Education Committee of the Maryland State Children's Cabinet was designated to serve as the ECEC Council. In October 2010, Maryland received federal funds to pursue the goals and objectives of the ECEC Council. MSDE reports that codifying the State Early Childhood Advisory Council will reflect the importance of the work the council members have undertaken in their efforts to improve Maryland's early childhood education system.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2014
mc/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2014
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 15, 2014

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Early Childhood Advisory Council

BILL NUMBER: HB 461

PREPARED BY: Maryland State Department of Education

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.