

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 653
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Luedtke, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Deaf Culture Digital Library

This bill requires the Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish the Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) as the primary information center on deaf resources for library customers and staff in the State. DCDL must conduct a needs assessment to identify and fill gaps in library services for deaf patrons; in coordination with the Governor’s Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, develop and provide sensitivity training for State and county library staff; develop a website for specified purposes; in coordination with DLDS, develop deaf-related programs and materials and share them with libraries in the State; and develop specified partnerships, collaborations, and alliances with specified government and other entities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$234,600 in FY 2015 for MSDE to establish the DCDL, provide training, develop required programs and materials, develop and maintain an interactive website, and to meet other requirements of the bill. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	234,600	308,200	317,100	326,400	336,100
Net Effect	(\$234,600)	(\$308,200)	(\$317,100)	(\$326,400)	(\$336,100)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Collaboration and partnership with the DCDL will not significantly impact local government expenditures. Local government revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: DCDL must also form a DCDL Advisory Board, with the majority of its members being deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals, and must develop a DCDL “Friends of the Library” group to promote community involvement, advocacy, and funding for the DCDL. The lead employee or coordinator who manages the DCDL must be deaf or hard of hearing and knowledgeable and experienced concerning issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Current Law: DLDS is responsible for providing leadership and guidance for the planning and coordinated development of library information service in the State and developing statewide public and school library services and networks, resource centers, and other arrangements to meet the library and information needs of the State. DLDS must provide specialized library services to the blind and other physically handicapped individuals in the State and other desirable library services.

Background: Chapters 540 and 541 of 2012 established a Task Force to Study the Establishment of a Deaf Culture Digital Library. The task force was 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.

The bill largely reflects the nine strategic initiatives recommended by the task force.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$234,600 in fiscal 2015, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2014 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one Deaf Services Coordinator and one Deaf Services Assistant to organize and monitor the program. The costs for salaries and fringe benefits will total \$115,500 in fiscal 2015, increasing to \$181,900 by fiscal 2019. In addition, MSDE will need to spend \$99,100 on contractual services in fiscal 2015 for acquiring and maintaining library materials, databases, and an interactive website to assist deaf individuals. These costs increase to \$137,600 by fiscal 2019. The following table shows the projected costs for fiscal 2015 by expenditure category.

Positions	2
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$115,519
Contractual Services	99,144
Additional Equipment	7,880
Other Operating Expenses	12,041
Total FY 2015 State Expenditures	\$234,584

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2014
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