

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 838
Ways and Means

(Delegate James)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education Programs in Harford County

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education Programs in Harford County. The Harford County Board of Education must provide staff support for the task force. In consultation with the appropriate Harford County Public Schools committee, the task force must examine the current capacity of vocational and technical education programs at Harford Technical High School and programs at other high schools in Harford County; evaluate how much additional capacity is necessary; explore opportunities to address the need for additional capacity, including an option to establish a second vocational and technical high school in the county; study programs at other vocational and technical high schools in the State; evaluate whether programs offered in Harford County are current with the demands of the economy and relevant to employers; and examine the transportation needs of students in vocational and technical programs.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014, and terminates June 30, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Harford County Board of Education are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must make recommendations regarding:

- the additional capacity that is necessary in vocational and technical education programs in Harford County;
- options to address the additional capacity needs; and
- the appropriate vocational and technical education programs necessary to remain current with demands of the economy and relevant to current and future employers.

By December 1, 2014, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor; the Harford County Executive, county council, and board of education; and the General Assembly.

Current Law: Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.04 establishes standards for a variety of vocational programs. Pursuant to COMAR 13A.04.01, each local school system must offer a technology education program in grades 9 through 12 which must enable students to meet graduation requirements; and select advanced technology education electives. The Maryland Technology Education Program is a comprehensive instructional program that must provide for the diversity of student needs, abilities, and interests in the high school learning years; and include the Maryland Technology Education Content Standards.

Background: Harford Technical High School offers approximately 18 different career and technology programs to students in Harford County, including programs in agribusiness, automotive diagnostics and systems repair, carpentry, computer-aided design and drafting, cosmetology, food preparation and management, and printing and graphic communications.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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