

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 294 (Senator Ramirez)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Youth Wellness Leadership Pilot Program

This bill establishes a Youth Wellness Leadership Pilot Program to promote youth-led health and wellness advocacy skills and to teach participating students skills in health and wellness, academic performance, peer education, leadership, career development, and economic well-being. After consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must establish the program for 250 public high school students, including 125 high school students in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) and 125 high school students in one other school system in the State. MSDE must report annually on the effectiveness of the program to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2015, and terminates September 30, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$78,400 in FY 2016 increasing with inflation to \$81,600 in FY 2018 to cover MSDE’s costs for holding a three-day conference for students in the pilot program. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	78,400	80,000	81,600	0	0
Net Effect	(\$78,400)	(\$80,000)	(\$81,600)	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Expenditures for PGCPS and one other local school system in the State will each increase by \$7,200 in FY 2016, increasing with inflation to \$7,400 by FY 2018. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that provide conference services may benefit by a minimal amount.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Every public school must have a program of physical education that is given in a planned and sequential manner to all students in order to develop their good health and physical fitness and improve their motor coordination and physical skills. The specific curriculum and course of study is set by each local board of education.

Each local school system must offer in its public schools a comprehensive health education program in grades 9 through 12 that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select health education electives. With the assistance of the local health department, each local board of education must provide adequate school health services; instruction in health education, including the importance of physical activity in maintaining good health; and a healthful school environment.

In June 2010, MSDE adopted regulations requiring each local school system to implement personal financial literacy programs in elementary, middle, and high schools. By September 1, 2011, and every five years after that, local superintendents must certify to the State Superintendent that the instructional program in the elementary, middle, and high school learning years meets, at a minimum, the financial literacy content standards described in the regulations.

In March 2013, PGCPS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM). Under the MOU, ETHM is authorized to implement its Pathways to Career Success Program and its Wellness Ambassadors and Leadership Program for students at Bladensburg High School. Objectives under the MOU are to “prepare students to be college and career ready; equip students with leadership and character skills; and promote student-led health and wellness advocacy.”

State Fiscal Effect: MSDE advises that based upon similar types of student leadership programs, including the Peer Helper Conference and the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a three-day annual conference will be held. This analysis assumes that the two counties selected will, combined, be responsible for transporting students to and from that conference at a cost of approximately \$14,400 of the \$92,800 total cost. In fiscal 2016 general fund expenditures for the remaining \$78,400 will cover audio/visual equipment (\$5,200); honoraria for speakers (\$3,000); lodging, meals, and registration fees for 250 students (\$60,000); and costs associated with approximately 30 adult supervisors

(\$10,200). Assuming 2% annual increases in costs, expenditures increase to approximately \$80,000 in fiscal 2017 and \$81,600 in fiscal 2018.

Local Fiscal Effect: In fiscal 2016 PGCPS and one other local school system in the State will each cover approximately \$7,200 in transportation costs associated with the three-day conference discussed above. Assuming 2% annual increases in costs, each local school systems costs total approximately \$7,300 in fiscal 2017 and \$7,400 in fiscal 2018. To the extent that local school systems involved in the pilot program choose to provide additional and ongoing services aligned with the pilot program envisioned by MSDE, local school system expenditures may increase by an indeterminate amount. These costs may be defrayed to the extent that any partnering organizations are able to absorb these costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 1069 of 2014 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: HB 198 (Delegate Fennell, *et al.*) – Ways and Means.

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

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md/rhh

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