

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 937 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Ways and Means

Prince George's County - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation
Requirements
PG 421-15

This bill requires the Prince George's County Board of Education to develop curriculum contents for a semester-long course in financial literacy to be offered in every high school in the county beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The curriculum must include instruction in specified topics. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, in order to graduate from high school in Prince George's County, a student must complete a course in financial literacy.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at the Prince George's County Board of Education.

Local Effect: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) expenditures increase to develop the financial literacy curriculum, hire additional teachers or train existing teachers, purchase financial literacy textbooks, and track students to ensure they meet the graduation requirement. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

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 regulations, 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. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and the State Board of Education.

According to regulations, each local school system must provide personal financial literacy programs in elementary, middle, and high schools that at least meet the content standards in the regulations.

Background: Pursuant to State regulations, PGCPS has financial literacy embedded in elementary, middle, and high social studies courses. Currently, financial literacy content is embedded in two courses required for high school graduation: U.S. History and National, State, and Local Government. The school system plans to open a Junior Achievement Finance Park in 2015. The park is intended to provide a hands-on financial literacy education experience for all eighth grade public school students, in addition to related financial literacy classroom time.

Local Expenditures: PGCPS expenditures increase to develop the financial literacy curriculum, hire additional teachers or train existing teachers, and purchase financial literacy textbooks. It is unknown what it will cost to develop and implement a financial literacy course that includes the topics specified in the bill. *For illustrative purposes only*, to purchase an \$80 textbook for 4,397 students (approximately half of one grade in PGCPS) costs \$351,760. To hire an additional teacher to teach financial literacy for each high school in 2016-2017 (fiscal 2017), PGCPS expenditures increase by \$2.6 million, excluding any local retirement costs. Training existing teachers costs less than hiring new teachers; however, an exact cost cannot be determined without further information on the training required. Finally, PGCPS expenditures increase to track which students have completed the financial literacy graduation requirement. It is unknown what tracking these students will cost however, it is assumed that the central student database will need to be updated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although SB 645 (Senator Muse - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is identified as a cross file, it is not identical.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2015
min/rhh

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