

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1466
Ways and Means

(Delegate A. Washington, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study Restorative Justice Discipline Practices in Maryland Public Schools

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Restorative Justice Discipline Practices in Maryland Public Schools. The State Superintendent of Schools, or designee, chairs the task force, and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staffs the task force. The task force must (1) study and analyze current disciplinary practices in Maryland public schools; (2) investigate potential implementation of restorative justice discipline practices; (3) examine national best practices for training school security personnel; and (4) examine national best practices for training teachers and principals in restorative justice discipline practices. The bill specifies various State entities that must brief the task force and the subject matter of those briefings. The task force must report its findings and recommendations regarding school security personnel to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2017, and its final findings and recommendations by January 1, 2018.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. MSDE can staff the task force with existing resources, and other State agencies specified in the bill can brief the task force with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of education must establish special programs for students in the public school system who exhibit disruptive classroom behavior. Each local board must also require an elementary school that has a suspension rate that exceeds a specified threshold to implement a positive behavioral intervention and support program adopted by the State Board of Education, or an alternative behavior modification program in collaboration with MSDE.

Background: Restorative justice is an approach that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime and reducing future harm. It seeks redress for victims, recompense by offenders, and reintegration of both into the community. Victims take an active role in the process.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of State Police, Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2016
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