

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1457
Appropriations

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions

This bill establishes the Task Force on Higher Education Students with Chronic Health Conditions to be jointly appointed and staffed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). A task force member may not receive compensation as a member of the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. By December 31, 2019, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report must also be made available to the public. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MHEC and MDH are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Minimal. Community colleges are part of the task force composition.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must obtain and study existing publicly available data on undergraduate and graduate students with chronic health conditions at institutions of higher education in the State, including data on:

- the demographics of students with chronic health conditions;
- the types of chronic physical, mental, and behavioral health conditions experienced by students;
- challenges faced by students with chronic health conditions;
- existing policies at institutions of higher education addressing the rights and needs of students with chronic health conditions; and
- available programs and resources at institutions of higher education for students with chronic health conditions.

The task force must make recommendations on:

- enhancing and continuing systematic data collection on students with chronic health conditions;
- eliminating existing challenges and accommodating the needs of students with chronic health conditions to ensure they receive reasonable, effective, and appropriate higher education in the State; and
- meeting the long-term resource demands of and the need for programs for students with chronic health conditions.

The task force may use State, federal, and academic resources to carry out its duties under the bill, including obtaining policies on accommodating students with chronic health conditions from institutions of higher education within the State or in other states.

Current Law/Background: The University System of Maryland (USM) does not have a policy specifically addressing the accommodation of students with chronic health conditions. The Department of Legislative Services also reviewed the policies of several large USM institutions and did not find such a policy. USM [policy](#) does require that all policies, programs, and activities of the university system be in conformity with all pertinent federal and State laws on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Many institutions have more detailed nondiscrimination and/or accommodation policies, such as the University of Maryland, College Park Campus [policy](#).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Maryland Higher Education Commission; University of Maryland, College Park Campus; Baltimore City Community College; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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