

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 972 (Senator Ellis, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students in
High School and GED Programs**

This bill establishes the Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students in High School and GED Programs staffed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The bill requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by June 30, 2021. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019, and terminates June 30, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can staff the task force and provide expense reimbursements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must:

- track and assess educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students in high school and GED programs through the evaluation of specified factors;
- identify best practices on (1) how to collect data and track educational outcomes in a manner that ensures protection of the privacy and well-being of pregnant and parenting students; (2) how pregnant and parenting students are able to secure basic needs; (3) how pregnant and parenting students are informed of their rights and

school resources; and (4) how such students access information about supporting their children's learning;

- determine a method of encouraging State agencies and school administrators to work collaboratively to ensure that diploma-seeking pregnant and parenting students complete their education;
- make recommendations on how best to prevent school pushouts and dropouts and eliminate barriers to education for pregnant and parenting students in public schools; and
- seek input from current or recently graduated pregnant and parenting students to provide insight and inform policy recommendations.

Current Law/Background: According to MSDE, several local school systems in the State have systems of support for pregnant and parenting teens through their school counseling departments and their Family Studies coursework. (Family Studies is an elective course for parenting teens which helps them learn how to manage their finances, work schedule, and school life.)

MSDE further notes that, in some cases, schools provide on-site day care for parenting teens, which allows them to complete their studies and graduate on time. Additionally, some schools have classes for the students as part of their day-care programs of study.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1201 (Delegate Cain, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2019
mag/hlb

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510