

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1271
Ways and Means

(Delegate Turner)

Special Education - Student Evaluation - Identification of Traumatic Brain Injury

This bill requires the initial evaluation of a child to determine if the child is in need of special education services to include questions regarding the student's history of brain injury or neurological insult. The required questions must be developed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in consultation with the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can adopt the required screening questions using existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase minimally to include additional screening questions during initial evaluations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Education must adopt, as regulations, standards for the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of a free appropriate public education of each child in this State who has begun the school year under the age of 21 and is found to need special education and related services, whether or not the child is receiving nonduplicative services from another governmental agency. Among other requirements, these standards must include procedures for the identification, evaluation,

educational placement, and provision of a free appropriate public education for a child with a disability who requires the provision of special education and related services.

The State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board is charged with (1) investigating the needs of citizens with traumatic brain injuries (TBI); (2) identifying gaps in services to citizens with TBI; (3) facilitating collaboration among State agencies serving individuals with TBI; (4) facilitating collaboration among organizations and entities serving individuals with TBI; (5) encouraging and facilitating community participation in program implementation; (6) and issuing an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing the board's actions and containing recommendations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1533 of 2018, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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